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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Burundi

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Burundi was held at the 7th meeting, on 18 January 2018. The delegation of Burundi was headed by the minister responsible for the rights of the person, social affairs and gender, Martin Nivyabandi. At its 14th meeting, held on 23 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Burundi.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Burundi: Côte d'Ivoire, Germany and Saudi Arabia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Burundi:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/BDI/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/BDI/2 and Corr.1);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/BDI/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Brazil, Czechia, Germany, Portugal, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America was transmitted to Burundi through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the Burundian delegation expressed his country's pride at renewing its participation in the universal periodic review. The review was taking place just as Burundi was arriving at a decisive turning point in its history: the holding of a referendum on a new Constitution, with the ultimate aim of embedding and sustaining institutional stability and social cohesion in the country. The national report of Burundi was based primarily on the recommendations that had emerged during the second cycle of the review.

6. Burundi had pursued clear legislative reforms with a view to promoting and protecting human rights. The President of the Republic had promulgated several Acts, covering the current Code of Criminal Procedure; the regulation of public meetings and demonstrations; the Electoral Code; the establishment of the Special Land and Property Court; the punishment of trafficking in persons and protection of its victims; the protection of victims, witnesses and other persons at risk; the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence and protection of its victims; press regulation; and a legal framework for non-profit organizations.

7. On the institutional front, a framework for civic dialogue had been established in September 2015 with the creation of the National Commission for Dialogue among Burundians, which had recently submitted its final report on the consultations held throughout the country. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was operational and its branches had already carried out fieldwork so that the people of Burundi might engage in reflection and embrace a brighter future. All of society was committed to reconciliation and everything had been done to preserve unity.

8. Since its review during the second cycle, Burundi had ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or

Punishment and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto. Burundi had held constructive dialogues with several treaty bodies, including the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

9. Concrete steps had been taken to improve the protection of children by establishing specialized juvenile chambers in regional courts. A telephone helpline that allowed children to report abuse was being piloted in Bujumbura with a view to being extended across the country and two rehabilitation centres for juveniles in conflict with the law had started activities. The National Children's Forum had been set up to provide a framework for consultations between the Government and children, while local-level child protection committees reported all cases of violations to the Government.

10. To relieve prison overcrowding, presidential pardons were granted regularly and the courts were expected to process cases swiftly. The prison service had established women's and girls' quarters in places of detention in order to ensure their dignity and protection.

11. Regarding girls' education, Burundi had made efforts to eliminate the discrimination arising from traditional attitudes, in particular by identifying girls who did not go to school or had dropped out of school and enrolling them in State schools. The duration of free primary education, which now included an introduction to entrepreneurship, had been extended to nine years in order to keep girls in school for longer and to gradually attain parity between girls and boys in secondary education.

12. Burundi was pursuing the "zero-tolerance" policy towards gender-based violence initiated by the President of the Republic. In addition to the pilot centre set up in 2012, new comprehensive care facilities had recently been established in three provinces. The current law on gender violence was bearing fruit and all actors were actively combating gender violence on the ground.

13. The Government had recently launched an extensive social safety net programme to reduce chronic poverty and was carrying out information, communication and education measures to encourage positive behaviours conducive to the improvement of nutrition, early childhood development, school attendance and financial literacy.

14. Recent steps to consolidate national human rights institutions included the establishment of the National Council for National Unity and Reconciliation and the National Observatory for the Prevention and Eradication of Genocide, War Crimes and Crimes against Humanity. The Government was currently finalizing its National Development Plan 2018–2027, a strategic guidance tool that ought to contribute effectively and constructively to increasing gross domestic product. The Government had set itself the goal of structurally transforming the economy to achieve strong, sustainable and inclusive growth.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

15. During the interactive dialogue, 96 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

16. Finland noted with concern the deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi and the authorities' acts against human rights defenders. It emphasized the importance of full cooperation with the United Nations and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi.

17. France, while noting positively the ratification of two conventions, expressed concern about the serious deterioration of the human rights situation since 2015.

18. Georgia called on Burundi to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry and ensure unhindered access by United Nations entities, including OHCHR.

19. Germany made recommendations.

20. Greece made recommendations.

21. Haiti took note of the efforts made by Burundi, despite the recent challenges, to improve the living conditions of the population.

22. Honduras congratulated Burundi for adopting a law on equal opportunities for persons with disabilities that envisioned inclusive education measures.

23. Hungary expressed deep concern about endemic impunity and human rights violations, including summary executions, torture, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and sexual violence.

24. Iceland expressed grave concern about the human rights situation in Burundi.

25. India expressed appreciation for the State's ratification of several international human rights instruments and their incorporation into national law, and its adoption of the action plan relating to the gender policy.

26. Indonesia expressed appreciation for the ratification of international human rights instruments and cooperation with the treaty bodies.

27. The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomed the law on the prevention of trafficking in persons, the amendment of the Act on the Criminal Procedure Code, and the establishment of the social protection fund.

28. Ireland expressed deep concern about reports of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detentions, enforced disappearances, torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment and sexual violence perpetrated since 2015.

29. Italy expressed grave concern about the human rights situation in Burundi.

30. Belgium, while welcoming some achievements, expressed worry about the human rights situation, in particular the plight of human rights defenders and journalists.

31. Latvia welcomed the extension of a standing invitation to all special procedures, while expressing regret that a number of visit requests had not been accepted.

32. Libya commended Burundi for ratifying the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

33. Liechtenstein expressed concern that the independence of the National Independent Human Rights Commission might be jeopardized. It also expressed concern about the exacerbation of violence, particularly against women, and the withdrawal from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.

34. Madagascar welcomed the measures taken to promote and protect human rights, including the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Commission for the Inter-Burundian Dialogue.

35. Malaysia welcomed the commitment of Burundi to improve socioeconomic development, as well as the State's efforts to promote gender equality and address gender-based violence.

36. Maldives welcomed the adoption of laws on the prevention and suppression of human trafficking and the protection of victims of trafficking, and the establishment of a related national committee.

37. Mauritania encouraged Burundi to continue efforts to strengthen the participation of women in public life and to take all measures necessary to strengthen the independence of justice.

38. Mexico noted the adoption of a national strategy to combat gender violence.

39. Montenegro expressed concern about widespread use of torture, unlawful detention and extrajudicial killings, and about numerous attacks and acts of intimidation against opposition and civil society members, human rights defenders and journalists.

40. Nepal expressed appreciation for the State's serious efforts to improve socioeconomic conditions and protect human rights. It encouraged Burundi to cooperate with OHCHR and international human rights mechanisms.

41. The Netherlands expressed serious concern about the general lack of progress on human rights, including with respect to the continuing shrinkage of space for media and the rising hostility towards, and intimidation of, journalists.

42. New Zealand welcomed the new law targeting sexual violence.

43. Norway was gravely concerned about the rampant human rights violations in Burundi.

44. Pakistan welcomed, inter alia, political measures on legal aid, the gender units of various ministries, and the special courts for juveniles and for gender-based violence.

45. Poland welcomed the law on human trafficking and the respective national action plan. It expressed concern about the State's withdrawal from the Rome Statute and the suspension of its cooperation with OHCHR.

46. Portugal welcomed efforts to promote gender equality. It expressed regret that Burundi had withdrawn from the Rome Statute, and expressed concern about reports of human rights violations.

47. The Republic of Korea expressed concern about the recent civil and political situation in Burundi, which jeopardized the rule of law, about the suspension of cooperation with OHCHR and about the detention of returnees.

48. The Republic of Moldova expressed regret about the suspended cooperation with OHCHR and the rejection of mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. It expressed concern about the exacerbation of violence against women, including sexual violence.

49. The Russian Federation welcomed steps to ensure the realization of economic and social rights, to adopt legislation banning the use of torture, to reform education and to raise awareness of discrimination against persons with albinism.

50. Rwanda remained gravely concerned at the deterioration in the human rights situation. It called on Burundi to investigate gross and systematic human rights violations and restore cooperation with the United Nations mechanisms.

51. Senegal welcomed the ratification of international instruments, the adoption of legislation on human trafficking and the revision of the labour code aimed at reinforcing the rights of women at work.

52. Sierra Leone applauded the measures taken to raise awareness of and support persons with albinism. It encouraged Burundi to establish a mechanism to hold accountable those accused of crimes against humanity.

53. Slovenia remained concerned about the overall human rights situation, and encouraged Burundi to extend to OHCHR the commitment it had demonstrated under the universal periodic review process.

54. South Africa commended the State's efforts to prevent trafficking in persons and gender-based violence, to train judges and police officers to prevent torture, and to reduce the number of young people in detention.

55. Spain made recommendations.

56. Sri Lanka welcomed efforts to ratify international instruments and implement the national gender policy action plan covering the period from 2012 to 2016.

57. The head of the Burundian delegation stated that the situation in his country had improved noticeably since 2015. In respect of the concerns expressed about the protection of human rights defenders, he said that such persons were not considered a distinct category and that they were not prosecuted because of their status. If they committed offences, they were punished in the same way as any other person. The judiciary had asked some defenders to explain themselves on account of their participation in the insurrectional movement and the attempted coup d'état of 2015. Some media outlets, on the other hand, remained closed because the people in charge of them had refused to cooperate with the judiciary. New radio stations had begun broadcasting and there were now a total of 25 stations that respected professional ethics.

58. Regarding cooperation with OHCHR, the Government had held frequent meetings with that entity with a view to reaching an agreement in the interests of all, allowing OHCHR to contribute to the strengthening of human rights in cooperation with national institutions and civil society organizations. Many of the 6,000-plus associations registered by the Ministry of the Interior and Patriotic Training were working to protect human rights.

59. Burundi had invoked its prerogative of sovereignty in withdrawing from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. Having thoroughly analysed the situation, the Government had concluded that withdrawal from the Statute would neither jeopardize the independence of the judiciary nor prevent the prosecution of crimes at the national level, since the crimes in question were provided for under domestic legislation. The Government had committed to addressing such crimes.

60. Regarding the mobilization of resources, Burundi was a low-income country which nevertheless had great potential. The Government had asked its various partners to reconsider the positions they had taken regarding the imposition of sanctions. Burundi was undertaking good governance efforts in order to attain budgetary independence. Despite difficulties, the Government had continued to deliver a programme of free health care for children under 5 and pregnant women and a programme of free primary education.

61. Persons with disabilities were a priority for the Government. A law on the status of persons with disabilities, developed in cooperation with associations, had been adopted to improve the situation of all persons with disabilities.

62. The achievement of gender parity in the Government depended on education, so that it was necessary to promote education in order to gradually achieve that goal. Parity had been established in primary education and had almost been achieved in secondary education, while efforts were being made to ensure that women were better represented in higher education. Following the conclusion of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement for Burundi, a minimum proportion of 30 per cent had been set for women's participation in elective institutions and in the Government.

63. Many laws existed to combat impunity. The right to equitable justice was guaranteed under the Constitution. Notwithstanding limited resources, everything was done so that Burundians could have access to legal assistance.

64. Burundi had ratified the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others and the Government was working to ensure that no Burundian would fall victim to trafficking, including by concluding agreements with several countries.

65. The Government had made a great effort to protect the rights of the Batwa. That community was represented in the National Assembly and the Senate, as well as in the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender to ensure the gradual integration of its members into the executive branch.

66. On the issue of stateless persons, the Nationality Act of 2000 was clear: any person born in Burundi was a Burundian. A National Office for the Protection of Refugees and Stateless Persons had been established to handle any and all cases of statelessness.

67. The Independent National Human Rights Commission enjoyed A status in respect of the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles), which confirmed the Commission's independence.

68. Early and forced marriages were not a concern for Burundi, since on that issue the country's Family Code was extremely clear. The Government continued to actively support the global eradication of the phenomenon.

69. The State of Palestine encouraged Burundi to reassess its decision on ending its relations with OHCHR, and explore the possibility of reaching an agreement with the latter.

70. The Sudan welcomed the ratification of international human rights instruments and the measures taken in the field of education.

71. Sweden made recommendations.

72. Switzerland expressed worry about the serious deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi, and recalled the importance of free participation by civil society in the universal periodic review process.

73. The Syrian Arab Republic commended the support given to human rights institutions, including the National Independent Human Rights Commission and the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

74. Thailand welcomed the legislation on gender-based violence and the establishment of centres focused on gender-based violence, special court chambers and regional offices of the National Independent Human Rights Commission.

75. Timor-Leste welcomed the national action plan to implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, the revision of the Labour Code in support of women's rights and the prioritization of gender equality in combating poverty.

76. Togo welcomed legislative efforts in preventing human trafficking and gender-based violence, and encouraged Burundi to pay particular attention to those most vulnerable.

77. Tunisia noted with satisfaction the adoption of the law aimed at protecting women from violence, and encouraged Burundi to continue its efforts to strengthen the rule of law.

78. Turkmenistan noted positively the ratification of human rights instruments, and the implementation of gender-related national action plans, which had led to the reduction of cases of gender-based violence.

79. Ukraine expressed concern about continued reports of human rights violations and the lack of action to fight impunity. It deeply regretted the suspension of all cooperation with OHCHR.

80. The United Kingdom remained extremely concerned by the Commission of Inquiry's findings on the issue of crimes against humanity. It strongly objected to acts of reprisal or intimidation committed against human rights defenders, including in relation to the universal periodic review process.

81. The United States was extremely concerned by the serious human rights violations and abuses and the impunity in which they were committed, and the continued restrictions on political and civic space for various actors.

82. Uruguay expressed hope that some of the adopted initiatives would contribute to combating gender-based violence and inequality. It noted the vulnerability of some minorities. It urged Burundi to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.

83. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the increased political representation of women, the law on preventing gender-based violence and protecting victims, and the housing and urbanization policy.

84. Zambia was concerned about the number of women detained with young children, and the lack of social care or protection for children separated from their detained mothers.

85. Afghanistan welcomed the implementation of the law on punishment of gender-based violence, and the establishment of gender units in ministries and special court chambers for young people and for cases of gender-based violence.

86. Albania stated that, especially since 2015, Burundi had been facing ongoing challenges connected to persistent violence, and expressed disappointment about the plight of human rights defenders.

87. Algeria noted positively that gender equality was among the main priorities in the framework of the poverty reduction strategy, and welcomed the measures taken in support of vulnerable persons.

88. Angola stated that Burundi had implemented recommendations accepted during the second cycle of the review by ratifying some international instruments, while noting that it still faced many challenges in guaranteeing the enjoyment of human rights.

89. Argentina expressed concern about the human rights violations committed in Burundi.

90. Australia remained concerned about ongoing disappearances, arbitrary arrests, torture, extrajudicial executions, sexual violence and the "official hunt" for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

91. Austria, while noting some positive measures, remained deeply concerned about persisting serious human rights violations in Burundi, including arbitrary arrests and detention, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial executions, torture and sexual violence.

92. Azerbaijan acknowledged the progress made, including the ratification of international instruments. It welcomed efforts in combating gender-based violence, and ensuring the rights to health and to education.

93. Bahrain encouraged Burundi to strengthen its national mechanism for reporting and follow-up in relation to international and regional human rights mechanisms and treaty obligations, with a particular focus on discrimination against women.

94. Belarus noted the State's cooperation with treaty bodies, and stated that its efforts to strengthen security and enhance economic growth and development should be supported by the international community.

95. Japan, while welcoming the increased level of women's participation in political life, expressed concern about the forcible displacement of about 400,000 Burundians to neighbouring countries, as at August 2017.

96. Benin welcomed the legislative reforms aimed at protecting women and children from violence and trafficking. It urged the international community to support Burundi in strengthening peace and security and promoting economic social development.

97. The Plurinational State of Bolivia welcomed the legal progress and prioritization of gender equality in combating poverty. It encouraged further efforts to ensure women's access to land, to promote peace and to end violence.

98. Botswana noted the State's efforts to promote and protect human rights, including in the area of gender-based violence. It raised concerns about the suspension of cooperation with OHCHR.

99. Brazil noted the measures taken to ensure food security and to fight hunger, and welcomed the progress made in combating HIV/AIDS.

100. Canada stated that all persons in Burundi, including human rights defenders, should be able to fully exercise their freedoms of expression, association and assembly, and to have confidence that impunity for serious crimes would cease to prevail.

101. Chad encouraged Burundi to continue implementing gender-related national action plans, and welcomed the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the ratification of international instruments.

102. Chile was concerned about the overall human rights situation and the suspension of cooperation with OHCHR and the Commission of Inquiry. It expressed alarm at the plight of human rights defenders.

103. China commended Burundi for the progress made in several areas. It called on the international community to evaluate the State's positive efforts objectively, and to provide Burundi with constructive assistance.

104. Costa Rica invited Burundi to continue its work to reduce impunity and violence. It urged Burundi to reconsider its withdrawal from the Rome Statute and its suspension of cooperation with OHCHR.

105. Côte d'Ivoire welcomed the legislative and administrative reforms undertaken to promote and protect human rights. It encouraged Burundi to continue its efforts towards national reconciliation and social cohesion.

106. Croatia urged Burundi to review its policy of refusing to cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry and to cease threatening its members. It expressed concern about various human rights violations committed in the country.

107. Cuba noted measures related to health care for children and women, free primary education, and education for girls, including the strategy on gender equality in education and its action plan.

108. Cyprus, while noting the ratification of two international instruments, expressed deep concern about the grave human rights situation that had prevailed since 2015, as documented, most notably, by the Commission of Inquiry.

109. Czechia expressed appreciation for the State's presentation, which gave an overview of the human rights situation in the country.

110. The Democratic People's Republic of Korea welcomed the adoption of a number of legislative measures, the strengthening of the institutional framework and the ratification of international instruments.

111. Denmark was extremely concerned by the State's withdrawal from the International Criminal Court, its opposition to the Court's investigation and its suspension of cooperation with OHCHR and the Commission of Inquiry.

112. Ecuador congratulated Burundi for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto.

113. Egypt welcomed the State's efforts to promote human rights, the consolidation of structures to protect human rights and the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

114. Estonia called on Burundi to cooperate with international human rights monitoring mechanisms and allow them unimpeded access to its territory, and to continue cooperation with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court.

115. Ethiopia commended Burundi for the progress made at the normative and institutional levels, including in relation to the realization of the right to education.

116. Morocco noted measures taken to strengthen the legal framework, such as the adoption of the Act on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence and protection of its victims, among others.

117. The Holy See noted efforts to improve the education system, while expressing concern about the massive number of refugees from Burundi living outside the country, many in deplorable conditions.

118. Ghana welcomed the promulgation of several laws aimed at promoting and protecting human rights, and the ratification of international instruments.

119. Myanmar welcomed the measures taken to promote education for girls and the inclusion of gender equity in the 2012 education strategy, as well as efforts to improve health-care services.

120. Namibia expressed concern about the circumstances surrounding the current relations between Burundi and OHCHR. It took note of the positive legislative developments since the previous review.

121. Gabon noted the State's efforts to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights by strengthening the legal and institutional framework, and encouraged it to pursue further efforts.

122. Burkina Faso noted some achievements, and encouraged Burundi to intensify its efforts in several areas, including national reconciliation and cooperation with the Human Rights Council and all its mechanisms.

123. Mozambique noted the ratification of various conventions. It welcomed the reports submitted to three treaty bodies, and the strengthening of the institutional framework.

124. The head of the Burundian delegation, in response to references to the arrests of persons, pointed out that the domestic justice system had been inherited from the colonial period. Improvements had been made in the wake of national consultations and had led to the amendment of the Constitution.

125. He emphasized that acts of torture had been categorized as offences under the Code of Criminal Procedure. The prosecuting authorities conducted investigations and offenders were punished in accordance with the law on the basis of evidence.

126. With regard to climate change, Burundi had actively participated in the efforts that had led to the Paris Agreement. Environmentally friendly measures, such as banning non-biodegradable products, would be adopted.

127. A steering committee had been set up to tackle the issue of malnutrition, especially to help children and pregnant women.

128. Members of the Imbonerakure — the youth league of the ruling party — who committed offences were punished individually. Similarly, any misconduct by police officers or members of the military was punished individually. One hundred and fifty cases had been identified and 120 officers had been dismissed.

129. Regarding the prison system, steps had been taken to improve the situation of pregnant and breastfeeding women to avoid placing them in pretrial detention, except in serious cases.

130. The head of delegation recalled that Burundi did not recognize same-sex relationships.

131. Between August and October 2017, 7,011 people had been repatriated and 13,229 had been repatriated from Tanzania with assistance from the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. There had been 163,541 cases of spontaneous repatriation. Following repatriation, returnees received assistance from the Government. Efforts were being made to persuade all those who had left the country to return .

132. The head of delegation expressed support for the standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders, of course within the bounds of legality. He ruled out any cooperation with the experts of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi, as he considered that its mandate was illegal and that it was a political instrument.

133. In respect of the national gender policy, Burundi was working to draw up a dedicated action plan, considering that it was an important issue.

134. Exiles would be able to take part in forthcoming elections by registering with the diplomatic missions in the countries where they lived.

135. The Government had dealt with corruption in the justice system as a matter of priority. Judges and prosecutors who were accused of corruption were punished in accordance with the law. That approach fell under the scope of the national good governance and anti-corruption strategy.

136. The head of the delegation concluded by thanking the many delegations that had made recommendations and offered encouragements to his country. Burundi remained firmly committed to the protection of human rights and would always accept cooperation, but not paternalism, in that sphere. The recommendations that were accepted would be dealt with by an interministerial follow-up mechanism and by a dedicated department of the Ministry of Human Rights, Social Affairs and Gender.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

137. **The following recommendations will be examined by Burundi, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

137.1 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Georgia) (Honduras) (South Africa) (Spain); accede to the**

first Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Canada);

137.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium) (Croatia) (Georgia) (Honduras) (Montenegro) (South Africa) (Spain) (Togo);**

137.3 **Formally abolish the death penalty, and accede to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Australia);**

137.4 **Sign the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Albania);**

137.5 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (Spain);**

137.6 **Intensify efforts to accede to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Georgia);**

137.7 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (Croatia);**

137.8 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Honduras) (Sierra Leone);**

137.9 **Sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt);**

137.10 **Continue taking steps towards the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families by enhancing the knowledge and capacity of related national authorities (Indonesia);**

137.11 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Honduras) (Morocco) (Spain) (Togo) (Ukraine); accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

137.12 **Sign and ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Chile);**

137.13 **Accede again and without delay to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and incorporate it into national legislation (Austria);**

137.14 **Re-adhere to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, and align national legislation with all the obligations under the Rome Statute (Latvia);**

137.15 **Reconsider its withdrawal from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Liechtenstein);**

137.16 **Reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute (Croatia);**

137.17 **Reconsider the decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Portugal);**

137.18 **Reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute and cooperate fully with the International Criminal Court in the ongoing investigation (Cyprus);**

137.19 **Reconsider the withdrawal from the International Criminal Court and cooperate fully with international mechanisms, including the Commission**

of Inquiry on Burundi established by the Human Rights Council, allowing it to carry out visits to the country and providing it with all the information necessary to fulfil its mandate (Italy);

137.20 **Expedite the ratification of the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness (Sierra Leone);**

137.21 **Ratify the Convention against Discrimination in Education (Togo);**

137.22 **Implement the recent recommendations of treaty bodies (Cyprus);**

137.23 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process for selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

137.24 **Respond positively to the pending visit requests from the special procedure mandate holders (Latvia);**

137.25 **Respond positively to requests for visits from United Nations special rapporteurs, including the Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Zambia);**

137.26 **Guarantee free access for special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council (Costa Rica);**

137.27 **Step up efforts to finalize the memorandum of understanding with OHCHR, thereby establishing cooperation with the Office (Botswana);**

137.28 **Finalize swiftly the memorandum of understanding with OHCHR (Ukraine);**

137.29 **Fast-track the process leading to the finalization of the memorandum of understanding with OHCHR with a view to restoring cooperation with the Office (Namibia);**

137.30 **Re-establish relations with OHCHR and conclude the outstanding memorandum of understanding on the status of the office of OHCHR in Bujumbura (Germany);**

137.31 **Re-establish contact with OHCHR, ensure unhindered access to all human rights mechanisms and guarantee that those cooperating with the United Nations will not be subjected to reprisals (Republic of Moldova);**

137.32 **Urgently resume its cooperation with OHCHR, and grant country access to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (Ireland);**

137.33 **Resume full cooperation and collaboration with OHCHR in Burundi to allow the High Commissioner to fulfil his mandate free from any interference (Ghana);**

137.34 **Resume swiftly formal cooperation with OHCHR in Bujumbura (Belgium);**

137.35 **Resume working with OHCHR in the country (Portugal);**

137.36 **Resume cooperation with OHCHR and continue to cooperate with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (Honduras);**

137.37 **Restore immediately cooperation with OHCHR and grant access to the Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (Rwanda);**[1]

[1] The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: "Immediately restore cooperation with the Office of the [United Nations] High Commissioner for Human Rights and accord access … to the Human Rights Council."

137.38 Re-establish cooperation and collaboration with OHCHR and the Commission of Inquiry by allowing their members unhindered access to the country and relevant sites and people (Albania);

137.39 Cooperate fully with OHCHR by restoring the full mandate of its office in Bujumbura (Switzerland);

137.40 Cooperate with OHCHR, in line with Human Rights Council resolution 36/2 and as accepted by Burundi (Tunisia);

137.41 Implement Human Rights Council resolution 36/2, adopted on 28 September 2017 (Tunisia);

137.42 Fulfil its obligation as a member of the Human Rights Council and fully cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi and with the team of three United Nations experts, and with the International Criminal Court, including by granting access (Germany);

137.43 Allow OHCHR to resume its documentation of human rights violations in the country (Cyprus);

137.44 Allow OHCHR in Burundi and the Commission of Inquiry to conduct their work without undue interference or threat (United States of America);

137.45 Explore opportunities of partnership with OHCHR with a view to benefiting from relevant assistance and support from the Office (Azerbaijan);

137.46 Cooperate with the United Nations Commission of Inquiry, as well as with OHCHR, with a view to improving the human rights situation on the ground and promoting accountability (Brazil);

137.47 Cooperate with the Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry and allow its members unhindered access to the country, including to victims of human rights violations and abuses (Hungary);

137.48 Cooperate with the United Nations Commission of Inquiry, and the International Criminal Court's investigation, to help ensure that perpetrators of abuse are brought to justice (Australia);

137.49 Offer full cooperation to the Human Rights Council-mandated Commission of Inquiry on Burundi to conduct unhindered visits to the country, and provide it with all the information and assistance necessary to fulfil its mandate (Czechia);

137.50 Permit immediately the Commission of Inquiry to enter Burundi to conduct its investigation, as mandated by the Human Rights Council (Denmark);

137.51 Give full and unhindered access in the country to the Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council, and fully cooperate with the Commission (Norway);

137.52 Fulfil its obligation to cooperate with the investigation of the International Criminal Court (Canada);

137.53 Comply with its legal obligations by fully cooperating with the International Criminal Court in all stages of the recently opened investigation and proceedings (Liechtenstein);

137.54 Allow and enable the conducting of investigations by the International Criminal Court, which were launched before Burundi's withdrawal from the Court (Poland);

137.55 Allow investigations by the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court to be carried out unhindered (Denmark);

137.56 Fully cooperate with the International Criminal Court's investigation regarding crimes within the Court's jurisdiction and allegedly committed in Burundi, or by Burundian nationals outside Burundi, between 26 April 2015 and 26 October 2017 (Sweden);

137.57 Improve its cooperation with United Nations mechanisms, in particular by implementing Security Council resolution 2303 (2016), by resuming cooperation with OHCHR, cooperating with the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi and reconsidering its decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute (Greece);

137.58 Make progress with regard to the implementation of Security Council resolution 2303 (2016), cooperate with the Commission of Inquiry and respond positively to visit requests from United Nations special rapporteurs (Austria);

137.59 Consider resuming cooperation with United Nations mechanisms, in particular, the Human Rights Council and OHCHR (Senegal);

137.60 Fulfil its obligations and fully cooperate with United Nations mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry, set up by the Human Rights Council (Slovenia);

137.61 Fully cooperate with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi and, in particular, refrain from any acts of reprisal or intimidation against those who cooperate with such mechanisms (New Zealand);

137.62 Resume cooperation with the mechanisms of the United Nations system on the protection and promotion of human rights (Chile);

137.63 Resume its cooperation with the United Nations in addressing human rights violations, including in relation to refugee issues (Republic of Korea);

137.64 Further reinforce its cooperation with the United Nations system in the field of human rights (Côte d'Ivoire);

137.65 Re-establish cooperation with all international human rights, investigating and judicial mechanisms, including the International Criminal Court and the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (Poland);

137.66 Ensure unhindered access by United Nations entities, including OHCHR and the Commission of Inquiry, to all areas, and continue cooperating with the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (Iceland);

137.67 Allow independent international and regional human rights investigators full and free access to investigate allegations of extrajudicial execution and mass grave sites (Iceland);

137.68 Ensure full cooperation with all internationally recognized human rights bodies and mechanisms (Afghanistan);

137.69 Maintain full cooperation with international human rights mechanisms (Ukraine);

137.70 Continue to cooperate with all regional and international mechanisms on protection and promotion of human rights (Angola);

137.71 Continue cooperation with the African Union mechanisms on human rights (South Africa);

137.72 Engage constructively with the opposition to find a solution to the crisis in Burundi that is conducive to free, fair and peaceful elections in 2020 (Norway);

137.73 Commit to comprehensive dialogue involving all stakeholders, as it is crucial to ensure that a free, fair and transparent presidential election is conducted peacefully in 2020 (Japan);

137.74 **Engage in open and constructive dialogue with all stakeholders to end the political impasse, and take steps to ensure inclusive and equal participation in political decision-making (Australia);**

137.75 **Pursue its work to uphold the efforts of national mechanisms for Burundi-wide dialogue and reconciliation (Belarus);**

137.76 **Ensure that all groups of citizens, including the members of opposition currently in exile, can freely and safely participate in the constitutional referendum, and discontinue the practice of systematic and illegal detention of returnees upon their arrival at the border (Czechia);**

137.77 **Initiate an unbiased mediation of the conflict and establish well-monitored democratic processes that include all sectors of society by promoting political and social reconciliation and respect for freedom of religion (Holy See);**

137.78 **Ensure that the National Independent Human Rights Commission is in full compliance with the Paris Principles (Liechtenstein);**

137.79 **Further strengthen the National Independent Human Rights Commission by ensuring its independence, in accordance with the Paris Principles (Thailand);**

137.80 **Take all necessary steps to ensure the independence of the National Independent Human Rights Commission of Burundi (Afghanistan);**

137.81 **Take all necessary action, including the provision of resources, to ensure the credibility and independence of the National Independent Human Rights Commission (Namibia);**

137.82 **Strengthen the role of the National Independent Human Rights Commission (Morocco);**

137.83 **Continue strengthening national human rights institutions and mechanisms (Nepal);**

137.84 **Establish a national preventive mechanism regarding torture, to ensure investigation and prosecution of extrajudicial killings and torture and to hold perpetrators, including State agents, to account (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

137.85 **Establish an effective torture prevention mechanism in accordance with the obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Montenegro);**

137.86 **Consider establishing an independent mechanism tasked with preventing acts of torture (Senegal);**

137.87 **Establish an effective torture prevention mechanism (Holy See);**

137.88 **Pursue its work to enhance the capacity of bodies in charge of prohibition of torture (Russian Federation);**

137.89 **Take measures to improve efficiency, accountability and transparency in the public service of the country (Azerbaijan);**

137.90 **Guarantee the respect of the fundamental rights and freedoms of the whole population (Argentina);**

137.91 **Take measures, in collaboration with the international community, to create an environment in which the people of Burundi can enjoy all human rights (Japan);**

137.92 **Implement measures to eradicate discriminatory practices against ethnic, political and religious minorities (Uruguay);**

137.93 **Decriminalize homosexuality (Iceland) (Timor-Leste);**

137.94 **Decriminalize homosexuality and abolish practices that promote discrimination based on sexual orientation (Ecuador);**

137.95 **Take steps to decriminalize same-sex relations (Australia);**

137.96 **Take measures to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between same-sex adults, guaranteeing the full respect for human rights of all, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity (Uruguay);**

137.97 **Take the necessary measures to repeal the legal provisions that criminalize and discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Argentina);**

137.98 **Establish legal protections against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Australia);**

137.99 **Ensure non-discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, in line with Burundi's national and international human rights obligations (Chile);**

137.100 **Strengthen the effort to better protect the rights of its citizens from the impact of climate change, through State-sponsored strategies, action plans and disaster risk management (Indonesia);**

137.101 **Put an end to the gross human rights violations carried out in a context of impunity and the lack of independence of the judiciary, in particular violations to the right to life, extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests and detention and enforced disappearances (France);**

137.102 **Put an immediate end to extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, arbitrary detentions and other serious human rights violations (Chile);**

137.103 **Take urgent measures to put an end to extrajudicial execution and acts of torture (Georgia);**

137.104 **Ensure that members of the country's defence and security forces respect human rights under all circumstances (Cyprus);**

137.105 **Ensure respect for human rights by security forces (Spain);**

137.106 **Issue orders to the police, the military and the Imbonerakure to refrain from all forms of violence, in particular against women, and ensure accountability for perpetrators of such violence (Liechtenstein);**

137.107 **Take prompt action to prevent the Imbonerakure from continuing its abuse and illegal activities (Norway);**

137.108 **Continue efforts to end violence and preserve the sovereignty and independence of the State as a necessity for sustainable peace and development (Syrian Arab Republic);**

137.109 **Call for the immediate end of all forms of torture and set up an independent mechanism to investigate complaints of torture and ill-treatment (Hungary);**

137.110 **Take legislative measures to put an end to corporal punishment in all settings (Zambia);**

137.111 **Cease immediately torture and other ill-treatment of detainees and allow them to have a fair trial (Albania);**

137.112 **Take appropriate measures to align the conditions of detainees with international standards, including by preventing and combating torture and other ill-treatment of persons in custody (Italy);**

137.113 **Take further steps to improve the condition and treatment of female detainees, pregnant prisoners and children born in prison (Thailand);**

137.114 **Conduct immediately a review of the legality of detention of arbitrarily arrested persons (Republic of Korea);**

137.115 **As follow-up to the recommendation contained in paragraph 126.87 of the report of the Working Group from the second cycle (A/HRC/23/9), devise and implement a strategy to improve and reduce the duration of police custody and pretrial detention (Haiti);**

137.116 **Ensure due investigation into the findings of the Commission of Inquiry with regard to gross human rights violations and international crimes, and ensure that alleged perpetrators are promptly prosecuted through credible, independent and fair judicial procedures (Sweden);**

137.117 **Undertake immediate and independent investigations into allegations of extrajudicial execution, excessive use of force by security forces, forced disappearance and arbitrary detention and, where there is sufficient admissible evidence, prosecute those responsible (Netherlands);**

137.118 **Undertake independent, effective and impartial investigations into all allegations of serious human rights violations, such as extrajudicial executions and excessive use of force by security forces, intelligence services and the Imbonerakure, and prosecute those responsible (Germany);**

137.119 **Conduct prompt and impartial investigations into unlawful acts committed by security forces and Imbonerakure youth, such as extrajudicial execution, arbitrary arrest and torture of members of the opposition, journalists, civil society activists and persons perceived as having supported the opposition and their families (Czechia);**

137.120 **Take measures for the effective investigation of serious human rights violations committed by all parties in the conflict, including State authorities, and ensure that members of the armed and security forces have the necessary training to respect the rights of the population (Mexico);**

137.121 **Investigate allegations of extrajudicial executions, enforced disappearances, abductions and torture committed by security forces and prosecute perpetrators (Poland);**

137.122 **Undertake immediately independent, effective and impartial investigations into allegations of extrajudicial executions and unlawful and excessive use of force by security forces, and where there is sufficient admissible evidence, prosecute those suspected of being responsible (Finland);**

137.123 **Investigate, prosecute lawfully and, if they are convicted, adequately punish those guilty of human rights violations, including those committed against human rights defenders, members of civil society and the press, as well as against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (Greece);**

137.124 **Promptly investigate extrajudicial killings, forced disappearances, torture and sexual violence, and bring the perpetrators to justice (Norway);**

137.125 **Investigate violations and abuses of human rights and ensure that those responsible are held accountable (United States of America);**

137.126 **Conduct effective investigations into all allegations of acts of torture and inhuman and degrading treatment in its detention centres (Zambia);**

137.127 **Take the necessary measures to investigate acts of violence and all human rights violations as well as to sanction the perpetrators (Argentina);**

137.128 **Investigate and hold to account perpetrators of extrajudicial killings (Australia);**

137.129 **Conduct investigations and prosecute alleged perpetrators of extrajudicial killings (Austria);**

137.130 Conduct prompt and impartial investigations of all crimes against journalists (Georgia);

137.131 Put an end to impunity by investigating and prosecuting all human rights violations, allowing the national human rights commission to take independent action and cooperating with the Human Rights Council and the International Criminal Court (Spain);

137.132 Combat impunity by undertaking independent, effective and impartial investigations into allegations of extrajudicial executions and unlawful and excessive use of force, and allowing independent international and regional human rights investigators full and free access to investigate allegations of extrajudicial executions and mass grave sites (New Zealand);

137.133 Intensify its efforts to combat impunity by conducting thorough, independent and impartial investigations of alleged violations and abuses identified by its national commission of human rights (Brazil);

137.134 Close the impunity gap and ensure that all perpetrators of atrocity crimes are held accountable in national courts or at the International Criminal Court (Liechtenstein);

137.135 Step up efforts to fight impunity and establish effective mechanisms that immediately ensure the respect and fulfilment of human rights (Costa Rica);

137.136 Continue its efforts to combat impunity for the perpetrators of acts of torture (Angola);

137.137 Make all the necessary efforts to fight against impunity and guarantee that perpetrators are punished (Portugal);

137.138 Bring to justice without delay all perpetrators of acts of torture and of any other human rights violations (Switzerland);

137.139 Fight impunity for the perpetrators of gross human rights violations (France);

137.140 Ensure accountability for grave human rights violations (Ukraine);

137.141 Take measures to ensure accountability following the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (Republic of Korea);

137.142 Establish a judicial mechanism to follow the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission to end impunity and to ensure that human rights violations are prosecuted (Germany);

137.143 Ensure that the Truth and Reconciliation Commission can properly discharge its mandate (Sudan);

137.144 Establish a special tribunal, as provided for in the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement, or another similar and appropriate judicial instrument (Greece);

137.145 Set up a judicial mechanism to prosecute genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes or other gross human rights violations or serious violations of international humanitarian law (Estonia);

137.146 Take all appropriate measures to address the issue of impunity and implement a fully transparent and equitable judicial system, in line with international standards (Italy);

137.147 Combat corruption and impunity at all levels of the criminal justice system (Ecuador);

137.148 Continue training judges and law enforcement officials in order to promote justice, while urging the international community and partners to make more technical and financial efforts (Sudan);

137.149 Take measures to strengthen efforts in increasing the number of judges and prosecutors, with a view to curbing extended pretrial detention (Botswana);

137.150 Fully respect, protect and fulfil the rights to freedom of expression and of assembly, including by lifting restrictive provisions of the Penal Code Act, the 2015 press law, and the Law on public gatherings to conform with regional and international human rights obligations (New Zealand);

137.151 Fully respect freedom of expression and assembly, reopen independent media, and put an end to the persecution of human rights defenders, civil society actors and opposition politicians (Norway);

137.152 Ensure respect of the right to freedom of expression, in particular for the independent press and human rights defenders (France);

137.153 Guarantee fully freedom of expression and the press, and freedom of assembly and association, in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Greece);

137.154 Guarantee the full exercise of the rights to freedom of expression and association and ensure a safe environment conducive to the work of human rights defenders and civil society organizations (Italy);

137.155 Ensure the respect of the freedoms of association, assembly and protest, in particular for human rights defenders (France);

137.156 Lift the legal and financial measures targeting human rights defenders and journalists and, in the short term, take all necessary measures to prevent acts of harassment and violence against them, in particular by ensuring that the perpetrators are brought to justice (Belgium);

137.157 Lift the measures limiting or preventing the legitimate work of members of civil society and journalists, in particular by amending the new laws governing the press, foreign non-governmental organizations and non-profit organizations in Burundi with a view to ensuring their compliance with international human rights norms (Switzerland);

137.158 Lift the legal and financial measures against human rights defenders and journalists, and prevent all acts of harassment and violence against them (Austria);

137.159 Review the laws adopted in 2017 regarding non-profit organizations and foreign non-governmental organizations, and lift suspensions and reverse the revocation of licences of media and civil society organizations so they can resume their activities with complete independence (Sweden);

137.160 Ensure the safety, and respect the independence of, all media and civil society organizations, including by withdrawing all restrictive measures adopted since April 2015 (Canada);

137.161 Allow civil society activists, journalists and international human rights organizations to carry out their work without obstruction and reprisals, including by lifting the legal and financial measures targeting them (Finland);

137.162 End all acts of reprisal, intimidation and harassment against journalists and media in and outside Burundi, and avoid new legal restrictions on media independence (Netherlands);

137.163 Put an end to the sanctions against non-governmental organizations defending human rights, media and civil society and set up a national mechanism for the protection of human rights defenders (Czechia);

137.164 Put an immediate end to any intimidation of or sanction against members of non-governmental organizations defending human rights and journalists (Estonia);

137.165 **Guarantee that human rights defenders are able to carry out their legitimate activities independently and without fear of reprisal, prosecution or intimidation, and ensure prompt, thorough and impartial investigations into all violations against them, as well as prosecution of perpetrators (Ireland);**

137.166 **Guarantee that human rights defenders can carry out their activities freely and without reprisal (Spain);**

137.167 **Take the necessary measures to ensure the full protection of human rights defenders (Georgia);**

137.168 **Take measures to prevent acts of harassment and intimidation against human rights defenders and journalists (Latvia);**

137.169 **Investigate all alleged reports of violence against, and intimidation, harassment and surveillance of, human rights defenders, and conduct prompt and impartial investigations with a view to holding the perpetrators accountable (Ghana);**

137.170 **Ensure humanitarian access and humanitarian space for all relevant actors, including human rights agencies and foreign non-governmental organizations, without discrimination, including by revising articles 16 to 19 and 29 of the new charter on foreign non-governmental organizations (Germany);**

137.171 **Take adequate measures to ensure a safe environment before, during and after the constitutional referendum scheduled for May 2018, and to guarantee freedom of expression (Haiti);**

137.172 **Allow members of the political opposition, civil society and the media to participate freely and openly in civic and political activity in Burundi (United States of America);**

137.173 **Continue efforts to enable tangible progress in combating trafficking in persons (Turkmenistan);**

137.174 **Implement fully the national anti-trafficking action plan and establish the consultation and monitoring committee, ensuring adequate human and financial resources (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

137.175 **Build the legal framework to implement the complete protection of female domestic workers from exploitation and sexual abuse (Bahrain);**

137.176 **Continue implementing the strategic framework for growth and to combat poverty and Vision Burundi 2025 (Cuba);**

137.177 **Strengthen the capacity of national structures in charge of the implementation of strategies and plans on social and economic development (Belarus);**

137.178 **Continue strengthening the social policies undertaken in favour of the most needy sectors of the population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

137.179 **Continue to promote sustainable economic and social development, eradicate poverty and raise people's living standards (China);**

137.180 **Improve living conditions and, in particular, work at overcoming poverty and invest in projects for social and economic development (Holy See);**

137.181 **Develop policies and action plans for disaster response in order to reduce the negative effects of disasters on the infrastructure and poor families (Syrian Arab Republic);**

137.182 **Continue to take positive measures to better protect people's rights to education, health and housing and other rights (China);**

137.183 **Strengthen efforts to address hunger and child malnutrition in rural areas (South Africa);**

137.184 **As follow-up to the recommendation contained in paragraph 126.153 of the report of the Working Group from the second cycle, mobilize sufficient resources to significantly reduce chronic malnutrition throughout the country (Haiti);**

137.185 **Complete the ongoing judicial reforms and accelerate the revision of the Labour Code (Senegal);**

137.186 **Continue prioritizing the implementation of the national health policy 2016–2025 in order to improve the state of health of the population (Indonesia);**

137.187 **Continue efforts being taken to improve access to health through the national health policy 2016–2025 and to improve universal access to basic health education (Sri Lanka);**

137.188 **Accelerate efforts to improve health services, especially in rural areas, through effective implementation of the national health policy 2016–2025 (Maldives);**

137.189 **Further improve its health-care infrastructure in order to enhance access to health care, particularly for women from poor and rural backgrounds (India);**

137.190 **Pay in-depth attention to strengthening the health-care system; in particular, prevent the spread of infectious diseases (Russian Federation);**

137.191 **Further strengthen efforts to improve the state of health of its population through a better health system (Myanmar);**

137.192 **Continue its efforts to improve the state of health of the population (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

137.193 **Continue to take concrete measures to reduce the high ratio of maternal and infant mortality by improving access to skilled basic prenatal and postnatal care, emergency obstetric services and skilled birth attendance (Sri Lanka);**

137.194 **Continue its efforts to reduce the maternal mortality ratio and child malnutrition in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies, including the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Health Organization (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

137.195 **Reduce maternal mortality, including by improving access to basic prenatal and postnatal care (Estonia);**

137.196 **Address persistently high rates of maternal and infant mortality in the country (Nepal);**

137.197 **Continue efforts to ensure better access of the population to education and health care (Algeria);**

137.198 **Strengthen its efforts to promote access to education for all (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

137.199 **Continue efforts to pass laws, programmes and plans to promote universal access to education (Libya);**

137.200 **Further promote the policy to ensure access to education for all and full enrolment of all children in school, in line with the Government's strategy (Democratic People's Republic of Korea);**

137.201 **Step up legislative and political efforts to ensure access to education for all children, particularly girls, including those with disabilities, those born out of wedlock and those in a vulnerable situation (Mexico);**

137.202 **Continue to implement its education policy of universal access to basic schooling, particularly access by girls to education (Myanmar);**

137.203 **Continue efforts to increase the school enrolment rate of girls so that they have equal access to education and to fight against discrimination and violence against girls (State of Palestine);**

137.204 **Continue ensuring girls' education by abolishing school fees in basic education (Ethiopia);**

137.205 **Increase its efforts to ensure access to education for all, including girls, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups (Azerbaijan);**

137.206 **Pursue its efforts to eliminate discrimination in education against girls, children with special needs, internally displaced persons, refugees, children of the Batwa minority and children with albinism (Slovenia);**

137.207 **Pay particular attention to the schooling of children with disabilities, displaced and refugee children and children with albinism (Togo);**

137.208 **Step up its efforts towards achieving gender equality (Portugal);**

137.209 **Actively promote gender equality, the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence, and awareness of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex issues, including the strengthening of the legal framework in this area (Canada);**

137.210 **Harmonize gender equality to guarantee the equal rights of men and women (Turkmenistan);**

137.211 **Repeal all discriminatory provisions and align legislation with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Latvia);**

137.212 **Accelerate the domestic law reforms in order to harmonize all laws in line with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and ensure their effective implementation (Albania);**

137.213 **Amend the code on persons and family and the nationality code, in order to remove the gender-based discriminatory provisions contained therein (Namibia);**

137.214 **Remove all discriminatory provisions between men and women relating to their ability to pass their nationality to their children (Sierra Leone);**

137.215 **Allocate adequate human, technical and financial resources necessary to ensure the implementation of the national gender policy (Ghana);**

137.216 **Allocate the human, technical and financial resources necessary to implement the national gender policy and, in this context, remove the obstacles that most women continue to face in the process of their economic empowerment (Mauritania);**

137.217 **Continue efforts to promote full and equal participation of women in decision-making at all levels (State of Palestine);**

137.218 **Strengthen the rights of women, in particular with regard to their representation in public life, as well as the fight against domestic violence and the gender pay gap (Algeria);**

137.219 **Continue the full implementation of initiatives that break barriers for the economic empowerment of women (Bahrain);**

137.220 **Continue efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women (Egypt);**

137.221 **Continue efforts to fight against gender-based violence (Morocco);**

137.222 **Step up its efforts to effectively implement its policy to prevent and combat all forms of violence against women (Honduras);**

137.223 **Continue to significantly strengthen measures combating gender-based and sexual violence against women, and consider decriminalizing certain conduct based on sexual orientation and gender identity (New Zealand);**

137.224 **Adopt effective measures to curtail violence against women and girls, thus enforcing the Law on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence, repeal legal provisions that discriminate against women and end practices such as forced marriage and child marriage (Spain);**

137.225 **Further undertake firm preventive measures to combat and prohibit all forms of violence against women committed by all parties (Thailand);**

137.226 **Adopt and implement effective measures to address sexual violence against women and girls (Maldives);**

137.227 **Continue efforts to combat gender-based violence against women and promote gender equality (Nepal);**

137.228 **Strengthen measures aimed at combating gender-based violence (Georgia);**

137.229 **Investigate cases and prosecute perpetrators of acts of violence against women, including physical abuse, rape, mutilation and torture (Poland);**

137.230 **Ensure that allegations of violence against women are thoroughly investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice (Sierra Leone);**

137.231 **Take all necessary measures to effectively enforce Act No. 1/13 of September 2016 on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence, by bringing perpetrators to justice and assuring full rehabilitation for the victims (Republic of Moldova);**[2]

137.232 **Strengthen the capacity of the criminal judiciary and enhance access to legal assistance for survivors of gender-based and sexual violence, without discrimination on any ground (Slovenia);**

137.233 **Take effective measures, including strengthening the capacity of the criminal judiciary and enhancing access to legal assistance for survivors of gender-based violence, without any discrimination, in order to punish the perpetrators of rape and other forms of sexual violence against women and girls (Hungary);**

137.234 **Strengthen multisectoral actions aimed at eradicating gender-based violence, considering the importance of the empowerment of rights and awareness initiatives and paying special attention to appropriate mechanisms for this purpose (Ecuador);**

137.235 **Continue implementing policies aimed at promoting women's full and equal participation in decision-making at the national and local levels (Timor-Leste);**

137.236 **Conduct campaigns for the registration of boys and girls not registered at birth, and ensure their free registration in the civil registry at any time (Mexico);**

137.237 **Prohibit child labour and raise the minimum age of employment (Timor-Leste);**

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[2] The recommendation, as read out during the interactive dialogue, was: "Take all necessary measures as to effectively enforce Act No. 1/13 of September 2016 on the prevention and punishment of gender-based violence, by bringing perpetrators to justice and assuring full rehabilitation."

137.238 **Continue to promote the implementation of public policies on persons with disabilities (Libya);**

137.239 **Create conditions that will allow the safe and voluntary return of refugees (Holy See);**

137.240 **Step up initiatives aimed at fostering an environment for the repatriation of refugees, especially by addressing the country's serious food shortages (Japan);**

137.241 **Improve the human rights situation with regard to displaced persons (Ukraine);**

137.242 **Continue its efforts in reintegrating disaster victims by putting in place the national reintegration strategy (Ethiopia).**

138. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Burundi was headed by the minister responsible for the rights of the person, social affairs and gender, Mr. Martin Nivyabandi, and composed of the following members:

- Honorable Joseph Ntakarutimana, du Sénat;
- Honorable Godelième Nininahazwe, de l'Assemblée Nationale;
- Honorable Félix Niragira, de l'Assemblée Nationale;
- Honorable Gloriose Hakizimana, du Sénat;
- Son Excellence Madame Aimée Laurentine Kanyana, Ministre de la Justice et Garde des Sceaux;
- Monsieur Sylvestre Nyandwi, Procureur Général de la République;
- Monsieur Anicet Mahoro, Conseiller Principal chargé de la Communication à la Première Vice-Présidence de la République;
- Maître Elisa Nkerabirori, Assistante du Ministre des Droits de la Personne Humaine, des Affaires Sociales et du Genre;
- Monsieur Fréderic François Niyonahabonye, Directeur Législatif à l'Assemblée Nationale;
- Monsieur Célestin Sindibutume, Inspecteur Général au Ministère des Droits de la Personne Humaine, des Affaires Sociales et du Genre;
- Monsieur Emile Manisha, Commissaire Général de la Police Judiciaire au Ministère de la Sécurité Publique.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Luxembourg

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Luxembourg was held at the 8th meeting, on 18 January 2018. The delegation of Luxembourg was headed by the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs, Jean Asselborn. At its 14th meeting, held on 23 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Luxembourg.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Luxembourg: Georgia, Switzerland and Tunisia.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Luxembourg:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/LUX/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/LUX/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/LUX/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Brazil, Czechia, Portugal, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Luxembourg through the troika. These questions are available on the website of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation highlighted that, since the adoption of the recommendations of the second cycle, the efforts of Luxembourg had focused on their implementation. In order to improve national coordination, Luxembourg had established the Interministerial Human Rights Committee in May 2015. The Committee regularly brought together all ministries and public administrations concerned by the protection and promotion of human rights in Luxembourg. It had spearheaded the national consultation leading to the national report for the third cycle of the universal periodic review.

6. The Committee served as a national coordinating mechanism, responsible for following up on the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations and preparing periodic reports to the treaty bodies. The Committee was chaired by the country's Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights, while the Secretariat was provided by the Human Rights Desk of the Political Directorate at the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs. Cooperation with civil society was an integral part of the Committee's work: every meeting began in an "intergovernmental format", after which the Committee opened its doors to participation by national human rights institutions and all non-governmental organizations (NGOs) concerned.

7. Luxembourg was a candidate for membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2022 to 2024, and planned in the coming months to prepare a list of voluntary commitments under General Assembly resolution 60/251.

8. With regard to the backlog of treaty body reports, Luxembourg undertook to find a solution for their drafting and submission before the end of 2018, relying on the flexibility

offered by the Interministerial Human Rights Committee and simplified reporting procedures.

9. Since the last review, Luxembourg had ratified the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. Preparations were underway to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Labour Organization (ILO) Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169). Moreover, the Chamber of Deputies was examining a bill to adopt the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).

10. Luxembourg had an independent national human rights institution in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), namely the Consultative Commission on Human Rights. Construction had begun on Human Rights House, which would host the offices of the Commission, the Ombudsman, the Ombuds-Committee for Children's Rights and the Centre for Equal Treatment.

11. Further to the adoption of a law of 7 November 2017, the Centre for Equal Treatment would henceforth be attached to the Chamber of Deputies, thereby ensuring its greater independence.

12. A draft bill on an ombudsman for children and adolescents, to replace the current Ombuds-Committee for Children's Rights, would shortly be put forward in the Chamber of Deputies.

13. The delegation highlighted the adoption, in January 2016, of the so-called "Luxembourg Guidelines" for the harmonization of terminology on the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse.

14. Regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and non-discrimination, draft bill No. 7146 had been submitted in May 2017 specifically to strengthen the rights of transgender and intersex persons through the introduction of an administrative procedure for amending the mention of the sex in civil status documents and the corresponding first names. Moreover, thought was being given to the possible introduction of a third gender-related indication for civil status documents. Finally, in September 2017, a draft bill had been submitted for the inclusion of "gender identity" among the grounds for unlawful discrimination enumerated in article 454 of the Criminal Code.

15. With regard to trafficking in persons, considerable efforts had been made to understand and curb the phenomenon. Efforts were focused on three areas: prevention; the protection and promotion of victims' rights; and the prosecution of the perpetrators of such crimes. Therefore, training and awareness-raising courses were run for police officers, magistrates, labour inspectors, immigration officers and community workers.

16. The concept of restorative justice had been introduced into the Code of Criminal Procedure through the Law of 8 May 2017, which strengthened procedural safeguards in criminal matters. In that respect, the Government was working together with the University of Luxembourg to train restorative justice "facilitators", who would play a role similar to that of mediators.

17. Luxembourg stated that in the "Luxleaks" case, it should be recalled that the Appeal Court ruling had granted whistle-blower status. The partial cassation of that decision following an appeal by the two parties did not call that recognition into question.

18. Luxembourg was actively following efforts at the United Nations to draft a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration and a global compact on refugees. Between 2015 and 2017, 2,116 persons had obtained refugee status in Luxembourg, while 108 persons had been granted subsidiary status. Since December 2017, Luxembourg had fulfilled all the commitments it had made within the European Union regarding the relocation of applicants for international protection coming through Italy and Greece.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

19. During the interactive dialogue, 69 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

20. Indonesia welcomed the creation of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee, and commended the establishment in 2017 of the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization to combat intolerance and the adoption of the 2015–2018 National Action Plan for Equality between Women and Men.

21. The Islamic Republic of Iran made recommendations.

22. Iraq praised the consultative process with the national human rights institutions and civil society, under the supervision of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee.

23. Ireland commended the establishment in 2015 of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee to foster inter-agency cooperation and coordination in the field of human rights. It welcomed the 2016 law characterizing wage inequalities as an offence. Ireland noted that female genital mutilation was not a specific criminal offence.

24. Italy appreciated the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and efforts to combat discrimination, violence against women and domestic violence, as well as measures adopted to host and integrate migrants, refugees and asylum seekers. It welcomed the commitment of Luxembourg to human rights education and training.

25. The Lao People's Democratic Republic welcomed the national action plan to combat human trafficking and encouraged an active and effective anti-trafficking policy.

26. Lebanon commended Luxembourg for its work to implement its international human rights commitments. It reiterated the importance of redoubling efforts to combat racial discrimination.

27. Libya commended the creation in 2017 of the Centre for the Prevention of Radicalization.

28. Madagascar appreciated the ratification of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. It welcomed the introduction into the Labour Code of the principle of wage equality, the creation of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee and the adoption of the law on domestic violence.

29. Maldives welcomed the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee to oversee the human rights obligations of Luxembourg. It appreciated the amendment to the Labour Code to address wage inequalities and welcomed legislative efforts to combat violence against women and children.

30. Mexico welcomed the implementation of the 2015–2018 National Action Plan for Equality between Women and Men as one of the priority areas of public policy. Mexico commended Luxembourg for answering the appeal of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and welcoming Syrian refugees as part of the European resettlement programme, which tried to provide support to more than 3 million persons.

31. Mongolia commended the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and noted improvements in combating discrimination against women.

32. Montenegro encouraged Luxembourg to put in place additional measures to prevent and address all forms of violence against children, including on the Internet.

33. Morocco welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the intention of Luxembourg to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Morocco welcomed efforts to reduce national inequalities, particularly the Bill on a social inclusion income scheme to replace the guaranteed minimum income and the project to provide assistance to energy-poor households.

34. Mozambique congratulated Luxembourg for its efforts to address racism, the adoption of the National Action Plan for Equality between Women and Men and the revision of legislation on domestic violence aimed at preventing and eliminating all forms of violence against women.

35. Myanmar recognized the measures taken by Luxembourg to improve human rights education, including through the launching of the "Life and Society" education course. It asked for more information on the challenges and good practices of Luxembourg in promoting human rights education, given the plans to include human rights education in the curriculum of its primary schools.

36. Nepal welcomed the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee, steps taken to enhance gender equality and women's political and economic participation and measures taken to combat trafficking in persons. It expressed appreciation for the social welfare system.

37. The Netherlands congratulated Luxembourg on the adoption and implementation of the draft law on marriage between same-sex persons. It encouraged Luxembourg to lead by example in the protection of press freedom worldwide. It considered that a national action plan on business and human rights was particularly relevant, as Luxembourg was home to many large companies.

38. Pakistan regretted that a number of issues still needed to be addressed, including the non-renewal of the mandate of the special standing commission to combat racial discrimination.

39. The Philippines commended the ratification by Luxembourg of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It expressed support for the efforts of Luxembourg on women's issues. It noted the efforts made by Luxembourg against trafficking in persons.

40. Portugal welcomed the positive steps taken by Luxembourg since the last universal periodic review to ensure equality between the sexes, by strengthening the participation of women in politics and the economy.

41. The Republic of Korea appreciated the ratification by Luxembourg of most international human rights instruments. It expressed the wish that programmes, such as the National Action Plan for Equality between Women and Men and the National Integration and Anti-discrimination Action Plan, be effectively implemented.

42. The Russian Federation noted the efforts by Luxembourg to address issues relating to the promotion and protection of the rights of migrants. It noted, however, that the problems faced by migrants, in particular in the area of employment, were of a systemic nature.

43. Senegal welcomed the adoption of various measures, including the appointment of an Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights, the establishment of an Interministerial Human Rights Committee and the submission of a midterm report.

44. Sierra Leone encouraged Luxembourg to consider reallocating powers to the National Council for Foreigners in order to maintain the scope of the issue of racial discrimination. It also encouraged Luxembourg to expedite the legislative reforms necessary to ensure that the acquisition of nationality was accorded to children born out of wedlock.

45. Slovenia expressed appreciation for the midterm report of the universal periodic review. It welcomed information on positive developments, such as the ratification of international human rights instruments and the adoption of the law on same-sex marriage.

46. Spain welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. It was concerned regarding the high level of unemployment of persons with disabilities and that children could be placed in solitary confinement for up to 10 days as a form of punishment.

47. The State of Palestine commended efforts to strengthen public participation in political life and to improve both governance and the performance of government services. It welcomed the progress made in the sphere of education and the plans to introduce a national action plan to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

48. Australia welcomed the commitment of Luxembourg to gender equality and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It welcomed increased law enforcement procedures to counter human trafficking and commended Luxembourg for legalizing same-sex marriage. It acknowledged the efforts of Luxembourg to support gender equality.

49. The Syrian Arab Republic took note of the national report, the compilation report and the summary of stakeholders' submissions prepared by OHCHR. It also noted the new legislation and proposed institutional measures to promote human rights.

50. Timor-Leste welcomed the efforts made by Luxembourg to combat and raise awareness of child trafficking, sexual exploitation and sex tourism. It commended, in particular, the facilitation and granting of residence permits to child victims of trafficking.

51. Togo expressed appreciation for the action taken to reduce inequalities between the sexes and to favour social inclusion and the realization of economic and social rights. It welcomed the adoption of a law concerning the recognition of professional qualifications obtained outside the European Union.

52. Tunisia welcomed the measures taken to implement the recommendations received during the previous cycle of the universal periodic review, in particular the strengthening of the institutional and legislative framework for human rights. It also welcomed the efforts to combat human trafficking, as well as the efforts to ensure gender equality and to fight the sexual exploitation of children and women.

53. Ukraine commended the high level of implementation of the recommendations from the second cycle of the universal periodic review. It appreciated the practical contribution of Luxembourg to solving the migration crisis in Europe, as well as the new immigration law of February 2017.

54. The United Kingdom was pleased at the ratification of Protocol No. 15 amending the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. It commended the action taken to combat modern slavery and human trafficking. It hoped that Luxembourg would submit its report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights without further delay.

55. The United States of America commended the robust commitment of Luxembourg to human rights and the rule of law. It noted, however, the past reports of prisoner-on-prisoner violence, continued challenges in combating gender-based violence, including domestic violence, and trafficking in persons for sexual and labour exploitation.

56. Uruguay highlighted legislative reforms to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

57. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela noted the ratification by Luxembourg of international human rights instruments and welcomed the policy of including all foreign children in the educational system from an early age regardless of their migration status. It also highlighted measures to ensure gender equality.

58. Viet Nam welcomed the implementation of public policies for the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the rights of vulnerable persons, such as women, children and persons with disabilities.

59. Algeria noted with satisfaction the efforts of Luxembourg to prevent prison overcrowding and the future construction of a new penitentiary centre. It welcomed the issuance of residence permits for child victims of trafficking, and appreciated efforts to raise awareness of child trafficking, sexual exploitation and sex tourism.

60. Andorra welcomed Bill No. 7167 to effectively combat gender-based violence and domestic violence, as well as the signature of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.

61. Angola expressed satisfaction at the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the commitments by Luxembourg to reduce social inequalities.

62. Luxembourg cited several developments with regard to progress made in the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. On 4 December 2017, the Ministry of the Family, Integration and the Greater Region had organized an evening of discussions bringing together some one hundred representatives of civil society and several ministerial departments. The talks were intended to take stock of measures taken to implement the action plan on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and agree on a second action plan for its implementation. Luxembourg cited another key advisory body, the Higher Council for Persons with Disabilities, the mission of which was to advise on any draft bill on disabilities submitted by the Government. The Higher Council had, for example, been consulted in late 2017 and early 2018 on bills relating to the accessibility of venues open to the public, inclusive education and support for inclusion in employment.

63. Regarding measures to combat the sexual exploitation of children, Luxembourg had introduced compulsory courses on the dangers of Internet grooming/sexting for secondary schoolchildren aged between 12 and 13. Police agents also ran courses on such dangers in primary schools. Moreover, a helpline called "BEE SECURE" was available for advising children in that respect. The Ministries of National Education and Health had jointly introduced a sexual and emotional health education programme. As part of efforts to combat tourism for the sexual abuse of minors, Luxembourg had supported advertising campaigns by the non-governmental organization End Child Prostitution and Trafficking, in collaboration with the airline company Luxair and the tourism sector. To further secure the circle of trust, a youth police record had been introduced, which was requested by any employer in the educational and social sectors with a view to protecting children against persons convicted of child sexual abuse. In addition, a procedure for detecting ongoing situations of sexual abuse had been introduced along with compulsory teacher training in that field.

64. With regard to family reunification, Luxembourg applied Council Directive 2003/86/EC of the European Union. It did not intend to extend the relevant procedure beyond the current three-month limit, but its Directorate for Immigration let the persons concerned provide initial proof of family ties within the three-month deadline and subsequently finalize applications.

65. Regarding the political and economic advancement of women, Luxembourg reported that the Law of 15 December 2016 on the introduction of legal quotas had entered into force and would apply for the first time to the parliamentary elections scheduled for October 2018. In the municipal elections of October 2017, the percentage of women, both candidates and those elected, had risen by some 3 per cent. Women accounted for 1,274 of the 3,575 candidates, or 35.6 per cent, up from 32 per cent in the 2011 municipal elections. The percentage of women elected stood at 24.85 per cent, compared with 22.2 per cent in 2011.

66. As for the restitution of illicitly gained assets to foreign citizens and Governments as part of the fight against corruption, Luxembourg had adopted a holistic system of asset restitution by introducing a new chapter in the Code of Criminal Procedure.

67. Luxembourg had ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and fully implemented it. Bill No. 6708 on the control of the export, transfer, transit and importation of goods of a strictly civilian nature, defence-related products and products of dual usage would likely enter into force in the first semester of 2018.

68. Argentina welcomed the ratification in March 2017 of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness and other international instruments on that issue.

69. Armenia expressed appreciation for the ratification of the international instruments recommended during the second cycle of the universal periodic review and achievements in strengthening gender equality. It welcomed the efforts to combat violence against children.

70. Switzerland welcomed the measures taken by Luxembourg to strengthen gender equality, the political and economic participation of women, as well as the rights of transgender and intersex persons, and measures to prevent domestic violence.

71. Belarus noted the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee and hoped that that mechanism would accelerate the consideration of the most pressing human rights issues, in accordance with the preoccupations of the international community, and promptly respond to new challenges.

72. Bhutan acknowledged the ratification of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. It noted the active promotion of human rights education in schools through courses on values.

73. Bosnia and Herzegovina welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure. It also noted that Luxembourg had advanced in strengthening gender equality and women's political and economic participation.

74. Brazil encouraged Luxembourg to adopt further measures to guarantee the rights of the child, especially those in conflict with the law or those subjected to trafficking and sexual exploitation.

75. Bulgaria commended Luxembourg for the steps it had taken to enhance equality between women and men and women's political and economic participation. It noted with appreciation that Luxembourg attached particular importance to responding to the influx of refugees and migrants into Europe.

76. Burkina Faso noted with interest Bill No. 7167 criminalizing female genital mutilation and urged Luxembourg to finalize it.

77. Cabo Verde noted with satisfaction the integration of the sustainable development dimension into human rights. It welcomed the introduction into the Labour Code of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value and the reform of parental leave.

78. Canada welcomed the steps taken to promote gender equality, protect victims of trafficking in persons, improve accessibility for persons with disabilities and clarify laws on child pornography. Canada highlighted the efforts of Luxembourg to fulfil its commitment to host refugees and asylum seekers.

79. Chad welcomed the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee. It also welcomed the ratification by Luxembourg of the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

80. Chile urged Luxembourg to continue its programmes on human rights training at all education levels and for civil servants.

81. China noted that Luxembourg attached importance to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the promotion of social and economic development, equality and social inclusion, the prevention of racism and xenophobia, and the fight against violence against women and children and human trafficking.

82. Côte d'Ivoire appreciated the establishment of the Interministerial Human Rights Committee in 2015. It expressed concern about reports of racism and xenophobia, particularly against foreigners, refugees and asylum seekers.

83. Cyprus commended Luxembourg for the concrete measures taken with a view to enhancing implementation of its human rights obligations. It welcomed the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

84. Czechia thanked Luxembourg for the comments on its advance questions. It acknowledged the progress of Luxembourg on many areas of human rights.

85. Ecuador congratulated Luxembourg for drafting the national strategy to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the commitment to reduce inequality at the national level, to promote social inclusion and to guarantee economic, social and cultural rights. It expressed concern about the punishment imposed on those who had filtered documents on the tax avoidance schemes of large businesses.

86. Egypt made recommendations.

87. El Salvador commended Luxembourg for ratifying most human rights instruments, appointing an Ambassador-at-Large for Human Rights, and establishing an Interministerial Human Rights Committee. It noted the willingness of Luxembourg to continue to cooperate at the international level on all matters relating to resettlement, the welcoming of asylum seekers and the fight against trafficking in persons.

88. Estonia welcomed the 2016 Law on the reform of parental leave. It welcomed efforts to combat and raise awareness of child trafficking, sexual exploitation and sex tourism and encouraged Luxembourg to continue that work. It encouraged Luxembourg to ensure sufficient resources for the functioning of the National Children's Bureau. It commended Luxembourg for its strong support of the International Criminal Court.

89. France welcomed the ratification by Luxembourg of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the establishment of an Interministerial Human Rights Committee and enhancement of the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

90. Georgia noted with satisfaction the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. It commended the efforts of Luxembourg to promote gender equality and women's political and economic participation.

91. Germany underlined the generally high human rights standards in Luxembourg and made a recommendation.

92. Greece expressed its appreciation for the measures taken to address inequalities in employment opportunities and social protection, and in particular for the assistance provided to energy-poor households. It also welcomed the strengthening of efforts to combat racism, intolerance and discrimination through sensitization, information, education and complementary campaigns for the whole of society.

93. Honduras welcomed the decision of Luxembourg to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention). It welcomed the creation of the National Office for Children and the establishment of an interministerial coordinating body for the rights of the child. It also welcomed the measures adopted to combat the use of children in sex tourism, the inclusion of the principle of equal pay in the Labour Code and the reform of parental leave guaranteeing that women and men had the same professional opportunities.

94. Iceland commended Luxembourg for its commitment to upholding human rights and its commitment to advocate such rights and fundamental freedoms in its bilateral and multilateral relations.

95. The head of the Luxembourg delegation explained that Luxembourg had not ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as it was a matter within the competence of the European Union. Member States of the European Union could not ratify the Convention unilaterally.

96. Luxembourg reported that racist and hate speech, in particular on the Internet, was prohibited by the Criminal Code. Moreover, a code of professional ethics had been drafted for the press.

97. With regard to gender equality, it was pleased to report that at the end of 2017, the wage gap between men and women in Luxembourg had decreased to 5.4 per cent, the lowest in the European Union.

98. Luxembourg created a national programme for the social and professional integration of refugees and asylum seekers soon after their arrival. Although a variety of languages were used in the country, Luxembourgish was viewed as the language of integration.

99. Luxembourg viewed all children as vulnerable beings in need of protection. It had decided against creating a criminal code for minors, as it had opted for a protective rather than a punitive approach. In respect of the deprivation of liberty for minors, on 1 November 2017, the new closed security unit for minors in Dreiborn had become operational. Minors were no longer isolated; rather, they were placed for renewable three-month periods. An interdisciplinary team was available to supervise such minors. The purpose of the security unit was to avoid putting minors in jail, as had previously been the case.

100. Draft bill No. 7008 submitted by the Minister of Justice strengthened efforts to combat the exploitation of prostitution, procurement and trafficking in persons for sexual purposes. Such efforts depended on cooperation between actors in the field, the future commission to combat prostitution and the committee for monitoring efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.

101. Regarding domestic violence, draft bill No. 7167 foresaw the introduction of preventive and protective measures against all forms of gender-based violence, including sexual violence. In 2016, the Ministry of Equal Opportunities had certified a psychosocial counselling service for child and adolescent victims of violence operated by the Pro Familia Foundation.

102. With regard to the rights of persons with disabilities, Luxembourg cited ongoing legislative and practical efforts to improve accessibility for such persons. Regarding employment of persons with disabilities, a bill was drafted to simplify administrative procedures in that respect and ensure more equal treatment for persons with disabilities.

103. In the field of human rights education, Luxembourg highlighted that regarding its "Life and Society" initiative, Myanmar had raised the possibility of cooperation. The head of delegation welcomed this and proposed to explore that possibility at the bilateral level. He also stated that police officers were given basic human rights education as part of their basic training.

104. With regard to the efforts to welcome persons seeking protection and meet the special needs of vulnerable persons, Luxembourg highlighted the possibility to apply flexibility to Eurodac's Dublin Rules.

105. Luxembourg concluded by appealing to all — member States and civil society — who made vital contributions to the Human Rights Council to redouble their efforts to work towards an order in which the rights of all individuals and all peoples were respected, protected and promoted.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

106. **The following recommendations will be examined by Luxembourg, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

106.1 **Withdraw the reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which could be contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention (Mexico);**

106.2 **Consider withdrawing its reservations to articles 2, 6, 7 and 15 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, which, according to the Committee on the Rights of the Child, appear to be incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention (Burkina Faso);**

106.3 **Reconsider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

106.4 **Consider ratifying the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Philippines) (Uruguay) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

106.5 **Consider ratifying the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Philippines) (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

106.6 **Consider the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Togo);**

106.7 **Continue to work so that the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families can become a reality in Luxembourg (Cabo Verde);**

106.8 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Egypt) (Honduras);**

106.9 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (El Salvador);**

106.10 **Withdraw its reservations to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Honduras);**

106.11 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Czechia) (France) (Greece) (Mongolia);**

106.12 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Montenegro);**

106.13 **Accede to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

106.14 **Speed up the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Togo);**

106.15 **Continue legal procedures to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Tunisia);**

106.16 **Finalize the process of ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Ukraine);**

106.17 **Continue its efforts towards the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Argentina);**

106.18 **Continue its efforts aimed at ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Switzerland);**

106.19 **Strengthen efforts aimed at ratifying the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Bosnia and Herzegovina);**

106.20 **Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Portugal);**

106.21 **Ratify the Protocol of 2014 to the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29) (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

106.22 **Intensify efforts to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Montenegro);**

106.23 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Sierra Leone);**

106.24 **Continue with efforts for early ratification and implementation of the Istanbul Convention (Slovenia);**

106.25 **Ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Bosnia and Herzegovina) (Italy) (Madagascar) (Spain);**

106.26 **Continue legal procedures to ratify the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Tunisia);**

106.27 **Ratify, as soon as possible, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Andorra);**

106.28 **Accelerate the process of ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention) (Georgia);**

106.29 **Ratify the ILO Domestic Workers Convention, 2011 (No. 189) (Madagascar);**

106.30 **Strengthen the role of national institutions and mechanisms for the follow-up of its commitments in the area of human rights (Morocco);**

106.31 **Expedite measures aimed at ensuring that reports to human rights treaty bodies are submitted on time (Ukraine);**

106.32 **Adopt, as a matter of policy, an open, merit-based process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

106.33 **Submit its report to the Human Rights Committee (Uruguay);**

106.34 **Continue cooperation with the international human rights mechanisms and bodies (Morocco);**

106.35 **Strengthen international cooperation to promote and protect human rights, especially through technical assistance (Viet Nam);**

106.36 **Introduce the offence of genital mutilation in the Criminal Code (Togo);**

106.37 **Bring the list of grounds of discrimination and the scope of anti-discrimination legislation into line with those of article 14 of the Convention for the Protection of Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms (European Convention on Human Rights) and article 1 of its Protocol No. 12 (Ireland);**

106.38 **Consider bringing the definition of racial discrimination contained in the 2006 law into line with article 1 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Burkina Faso);**

106.39 **Strengthen measures so as to combat all types of discrimination, namely by reviewing the law on equal treatment of 28 November 2006 regarding the Centre for Equal Treatment (Côte d'Ivoire);**

106.40 **Consider introducing into its laws, an aggravating circumstance for crimes that are racially motivated, as also recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (Philippines);**

106.41 **Introduce into its criminal legislation an aggravating circumstance for racially motivated crimes (Greece);**

106.42 **Immediately cease the political practice of imposing unilateral coercive punitive measures against other countries and initiate the immediate lifting of these measures as punishment issued by an internal government decision that exceeded the borders of Luxembourg and violated the rights of citizens of these countries in clear violation of common article 1 (2) of the two International Covenants (Syrian Arab Republic);**

106.43 **Continue giving the greatest possible scope, flexibility and coverage to its migration policy (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

106.44 **Ensure that the Consultative Commission on Human Rights and the Centre for Equal Treatment have the necessary legal authority to process complaints regarding cases of discrimination, in particular of multiple discrimination or discrimination in the private sector, including the authority required to resolve such complaints (Honduras);**

106.45 **Continue to progress the implementation of its national action plan on equality (Australia);**

106.46 **Redouble its efforts to strengthen human rights education and training programmes, particularly for government officials and the security forces (Myanmar);**

106.47 **Introduce compulsory human rights training for civil servants and public employees, including judges, magistrates and lawyers (Pakistan);**

106.48 **Ensure human rights training for all officials, whether civilians or police officials, who accompany those seeking international protection throughout this process (Canada);**

106.49 **Conduct campaigns to raise the awareness of journalists of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Timor-Leste);**

106.50 **Take practical measures to avoid tax evasion considering its impact on human rights (Ecuador);**

106.51 **Put an end to and eliminate all forms and manifestations of discrimination, xenophobia and Islamophobia and hate speech in the media, especially against the Muslim community and ensure that the social media and Internet access providers ban hate speech (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

106.52 **Introduce into the constitution a provision guaranteeing the right of all individuals to equal treatment and ensure a remedy for cases of discrimination and hate speech, including in the media and on the Internet, and broadcast it without secrecy, providing statistics about it (Syrian Arab Republic);**

106.53 **Strengthen the policy of social inclusion for the enjoyment of economic and social rights, especially for migrants (Angola);**

106.54 **Continue to adopt effective legislative and administrative measures to guarantee the rights of vulnerable groups, such as women, children and persons with disabilities (China);**

106.55 **Continue to enhance its efforts aimed at combating all forms of discrimination and other related forms of intolerance (Cyprus);**

106.56 **Combat all forms of discrimination through campaigns so as to eliminate the spread of negative stereotypes (Ecuador);**

106.57 **Continue to progress legal protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons by adopting the draft law of May 2017 on the modification of sex and names, and amendment of the Civil Code, and increasing publicly available information on rights for intersex persons (Australia);**

106.58 **Continue its efforts to combat racial discrimination and xenophobia (Nepal);**

106.59 **Introduce legislative provisions for banning and declaring illegal any organization that incites racial discrimination (Pakistan);**

106.60 **Take legal measures in order to combat acts of racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia and their manifestation (Pakistan);**

106.61 **Strengthen the means to combat racism, xenophobia and discrimination by raising awareness and the adoption of laws and regulations (Senegal);**

106.62 **Enact legislation that is more consistent with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Iraq);**

106.63 **Continue efforts to combat racial discrimination and hate speech against foreigners in order to raise awareness and increase a culture of diversity and tolerance (Tunisia);**

106.64 **Deepen the measures of investigation and sanction of speeches and acts of hatred, xenophobia, discrimination and incitement to violence towards migrants and minorities, as well as all dissemination of stereotypes about certain ethnic groups (Argentina);**

106.65 **Strengthen legislative measures to fight racial discrimination and xenophobia (Belarus);**

106.66 **Amend the legislation on equal treatment with the aim of including the criteria of national origin, colour or descent in the definition of racial discrimination, in line with the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (Brazil);**

106.67 **Enhance and develop laws to combat racial discrimination with a view to eliminating all forms of discrimination and its manifestations (Lebanon);**

106.68 **Pursue all efforts to combat racism, xenophobia and other forms of hatred (Libya);**

106.69 **Review its domestic law in order to introduce into its criminal legislation an aggravating circumstance for racially motivated crimes (Honduras);**

106.70 **Continue developing a national action plan on business and human rights (Netherlands);**

106.71 **Take the necessary steps to ensure that its national action plan to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights includes provisions that would ensure that Luxembourg's companies are not involved in any activity that has a negative impact on the enjoyment of human rights, particularly in conflict areas; this includes situations of foreign occupation, in which there are heightened risks of human rights abuses (State of Palestine);**

106.72 **Continue efforts for the implementation of the national plan of action on business and human rights and share its experience in this area with the international community (Chile);**

106.73 **Engage actively with the international community in the efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change (Viet Nam);**

106.74 **Ensure the access of persons deprived of their liberty to medical treatment, including to external medical care (Portugal);**

106.75 **Strengthen the protection of juveniles in detention, by receiving them within a framework that is conducive to re-education, separate from the places reserved for incarcerated adults (Senegal);**

106.76 **Ensure that minors are not detained in holding centres or prisons, nor kept in solitary confinement (Sierra Leone);**

106.77 **Repeal all measures that involve the placement of children in solitary confinement and replace these with legislation that is in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the best interests of the child (Spain);**

106.78 **Continue implementation of remedial measures in the Schrassig prison and the socio-educational centres for juveniles in Schrassig and Dreiborn (United States of America);**

106.79 **Continue efforts to improve the detention conditions of minors (Georgia);**

106.80 **Continue efforts to improve conditions in prisons, especially for minors and other vulnerable groups, in line with recommendations of the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture and Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Germany);**

106.81 **Adopt immediately legislative measures that prohibit the placement of children in solitary confinement (Honduras);**

106.82 **Strengthen measures to prevent and combat human trafficking, including by improving the identification process of victims of human trafficking (Indonesia);**

106.83 **Do more work on the protection of human rights of persons seeking international protection and persons receiving such protection and combat human trafficking and migrant smuggling (Mozambique);**

106.84 **Expedite efforts in prosecuting perpetrators of trafficking in persons and to enhance measures to prevent these activities, and if racially motivated, to consider this as an aggravating factor when prosecuting the perpetrators (Philippines);**

106.85 **Continue the work to combat human trafficking, including by developing a plan of action to combat trafficking in human beings, as well as by identifying victims and providing them with rehabilitation services (Russian Federation);**

106.86 **Combat trafficking in persons (Senegal);**

106.87 **Continue to strengthen its preventative anti-trafficking efforts, particularly for newly arrived women and children in migrant communities (Australia);**

106.88 **Prescribe and, where appropriate, impose punishment that is sufficiently stringent to deter the crime of trafficking in persons (United States of America);**

106.89 **Redouble efforts to combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of labour exploitation; adopt a national action plan to combat trafficking in persons for the purpose of exploitation, especially women and children; and strengthen measures to prevent and improve the detection of cases of human trafficking (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

106.90 **Continue its efforts in strengthening the capacity-building in the fight against human trafficking and particularly combat violence against women and girls (Lao People's Democratic Republic);**

106.91 **Initiate a review of the regulatory framework of the media in order to prevent and eliminate speech motivated by prejudice and discriminatory stereotypes (Mexico);**

106.92 **Take additional measures to thoroughly protect all human rights defenders, including journalists (Netherlands);**

106.93 **Review the regulatory framework of the mass media in order to put an end to hate speech and racism, while respecting the independence of the present mass media (Egypt);**

106.94 **Decriminalize defamation and include it as part of the civil code in accordance with international standards (Estonia);**

106.95 **Encourage media to curb hate speech, while respecting freedom of expression (Lebanon);**

106.96 **Take all measures necessary to prohibit and punish discrimination and incitement to violence against vulnerable groups (Timor-Leste);**

106.97 **Ensure that all hate crimes are effectively investigated and that perpetrators are brought to justice (Russian Federation);**

106.98 **Maintain and officially publish statistics on hate crimes (Russian Federation);**

106.99 **Take appropriate measures to prevent the spread of hate speech in the media and on the Internet (Russian Federation);**

106.100 **Strengthen measures to prohibit and punish discrimination and incitement to violence against vulnerable groups, and ensure that crimes motivated by prejudice are investigated and prosecuted, and perpetrators convicted and punished (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

106.101 **Take all necessary measures to prohibit and sanction all discrimination or incitement to violence targeting vulnerable groups and to make sure that all offences based on hatred are investigated and prosecuted, and that the perpetrators of such offences are convicted and punished (Algeria);**

106.102 **Pay appropriate attention to identify and prosecute perpetrators of hate-based crimes and bring them to justice (Belarus);**

106.103 **Protect the right to housing by ensuring that persons who benefit from an international protection status are able to find affordable housing (Canada);**

106.104 **Take all the measures necessary to facilitate access to the labour market for persons of foreign, non-European Union origin, particularly women (Pakistan);**

106.105 **Adopt positive measures to facilitate access to the job market for persons with migration backgrounds with a low level of education (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

106.106 **Take all necessary measures to facilitate the access of foreigners to the labour market and of foreigners from outside the European Union (Côte d'Ivoire);**

106.107 **Accelerate its efforts to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including children with disabilities, to ensure accessibility to the health-care services and facilities in the community (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

106.108 **Strengthen the prevention of suicides among adolescents by increasing access to psychosocial and counselling support services (Portugal);**

106.109 **Continue to invest in the necessary resources to improve and expand educational facilities and opportunities, in order to ensure the right to quality education for all children, including asylum-seeking and refugee children, is achieved (State of Palestine);**

106.110 **Take further steps to integrate children with special needs into regular educational establishments (Bulgaria);**

106.111 **Continue to invest the necessary resources to improve and expand educational facilities and opportunities to ensure the right of all children, including those of migrant workers and asylum-seeking and refugee children, to access quality education in Luxembourg (Iceland);**

106.112 **Ensure that the prohibition of gender-based discrimination is duly complied with, and intensify efforts to reduce the wage gap between women and men (Uruguay);**

106.113 **Continue to make efforts to combat gender-based violence and violence against women and girls, as well as domestic violence (Myanmar);**

106.114 **Implement programmes to promote cooperation between NGOs and law enforcement to combat domestic violence and other forms of gender-based violence (United States of America);**

106.115 **Proceed with proposed legislative reforms to introduce the specific criminal offence of female genital mutilation to the Criminal Code (Ireland);**

106.116 **Continue its efforts to revise legislation on domestic violence through the adoption of Bill No. 7167, which would protect women and children against domestic violence (Bhutan);**

106.117 **Continue empowering women and enhance their role in political and economic life (Mongolia);**

106.118 **Continue to take effective measures aimed at ensuring the participation of women in the political and economic life of the country (Armenia);**

106.119 **Continue its work towards enhancing gender equality and women's political and economic empowerment (Iceland);**

106.120 **Modify the Criminal Code and other legislation to ensure that all children are fully protected from child prostitution (Sierra Leone);**

106.121 **Continue efforts aimed at combating violence against women and girls (Angola);**

106.122 **Accelerate work to introduce amendments to the legislation so as to provide comprehensive protection to children from child trafficking, child prostitution and child pornography (Belarus);**

106.123 **Enhance efforts so as to approve legal reforms with the purpose of guaranteeing equality for children born out of wedlock (Chile);**

106.124 **Respect its legal obligations under the Convention on the Rights of the Child for the protection of children born out of wedlock, unregistered or recognized births from both parents (Syrian Arab Republic);**

106.125 **Continue improving its national legal framework to protect children from child sexual exploitation (Indonesia);**

106.126 **Develop a more accurate definition of child pornography to ensure the criminalization of pictures of children that fall outside the definition of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (Islamic Republic of Iran);**

106.127 **Develop new legislation and action plans for the offences of child trafficking and sexual exploitation (or what is known as sex tourism with children outside the national border) in particular to protect the most vulnerable children, such as migrants and asylum seekers, and full protection for unaccompanied children (Syrian Arab Republic);**

106.128 **Adopt legislative and other measures to ensure the prompt removal of online images of child abuse from Internet hosting services**

registered in Luxembourg (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);

106.129 **Continue to take the necessary measures to implement all elements of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, notably by strengthening its legal framework to protect children from sexual exploitation (Switzerland);**

106.130 **Establish special mechanisms and procedures to detect cases of children at risk, particularly among children in situations of vulnerability, and strengthen is prevention system and the protection of potential victims of trafficking (Honduras);**

106.131 **Strengthen the juvenile justice system so as to be fully in line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Maldives);**

106.132 **Consider restorative justice practices to rehabilitate children in conflict with the law (Maldives);**

106.133 **Review its juvenile justice system to be in line with the Convention on the Rights of Child by placing them in new detention units for juveniles, along with developing diversion mechanisms and alternatives to detention and punishment (Republic of Korea);**

106.134 **Establish a juvenile justice system that allows judges to deal with children in an age-appropriate manner (Iraq);**

106.135 **Develop a juvenile justice system that allows children to be treated in the court system in an age-appropriate manner (Lebanon);**

106.136 **Promote a broader participation of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors (Portugal);**

106.137 **Encourage the hiring of persons with disabilities in both the private and the public sectors through fiscal and other measures (Spain);**

106.138 **Continue efforts aimed at guaranteeing better access to employment for persons with disabilities (Algeria);**

106.139 **Ensure the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Chad);**

106.140 **Adopt public policies with the aim of promoting access to employment for persons with disabilities by establishing, if need be, specific temporary measures to achieve this goal (Chile);**

106.141 **Continue and intensify efforts to comply with the principles enshrined in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, particularly by improving the involvement of people with disabilities in decision-making processes that concern them (Czechia);**

106.142 **Ensure that the implementation at the national level of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is guaranteed (Madagascar);**

106.143 **Consider alternatives to the detention of migrants, including individuals whose asylum claims have been rejected, and redouble efforts in the identification and reception of vulnerable persons among migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, in particular those who are stateless or have experienced torture, sexual abuse or human trafficking (Brazil);**

106.144 **Adopt positive measures in order to facilitate access by migrants to all levels of education as well as the labour market, to invest in their vocational training and to recognize foreign qualifications (Egypt);**

106.145 **Intensify the teaching of official languages to minorities in a vulnerable situation, such as migrants and refugees, invest in their professional**

training and facilitate the recognition of degrees and diplomas obtained abroad, which will contribute to their integration (Mexico);

106.146 **Continue efforts to promote refugee integration and fair employment of immigrants (Republic of Korea);**

106.147 **Take special measures to improve access of migrants to the labour market (Russian Federation);**

106.148 **Ensure that vulnerable persons among those seeking international protection are promptly identified as they come into the offices of the Luxembourg Reception and Integration Agency (Canada);**

106.149 **Take further effective measures to protect the rights of ethnic minorities, refugees and migrants (China).**

107. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

[*English and French only*]

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Luxembourg was headed by H.E. Mr. Jean Asselborn, Minister for Foreign and European Affairs and composed of the following members:

- S.E. M. Pierre-Louis Lorenz, Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève;
- S.E. M. Olivier Maes, Ambassadeur, Directeur des Affaires politiques; Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes, Luxembourg;
- S.E. M. Christian Braun, Ambassadeur, Représentant Permanent du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg auprès de l'Organisation des Nations Unies à New York;
- S.E. M. Marc Bichler, Ambassadeur itinérant pour les droits de l'homme, Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes, Luxembourg;
- Mme Anne Goedert, Représentant Permanent adjoint du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève;
- Mme Christiane Martin, Conseillère, Direction de l'Immigration, Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes, Luxembourg;
- M. Luc Dockendorf, Conseiller de Légation, Desk droits de l'homme, Direction politique, Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Luxembourg;
- M. Thomas Barbancey, Attaché de presse du Ministre, Ministère des Affaires étrangères et européennes, Luxembourg;
- Mme Marya Kuderska, Attachée, Représentation Permanente du Grand-Duché de Luxembourg auprès de l'Office des Nations Unies à Genève;
- M. Christian Bintener, Département Coordination, Méthodologie, Informatique, Service national d'action Sociale, Ministère de la Famille, de l'Intégration et de la Grande Région, Luxembourg;
- M. Joseph Faber, Conseiller de Direction 1ère classe, Ministère du Travail, de l'Emploi et de l'Economie sociale et solidaire, Luxembourg;
- Mme Claudine Konsbruck, Conseillère de Gouvernement 1ère classe, Ministère de la Justice, Luxembourg;
- M. Claude Janizzi, Conseiller de Direction 1ère classe, Ministère de l'Education nationale, de l'Enfance et de la Jeunesse, Luxembourg;
- Mme Véronique Piquard, Attachée de Gouvernement, Office Luxembourgeois de l'Accueil et de l'Intégration (OLAI), Ministère de la Famille, de l'Intégration et à la Grande Région, Luxembourg;
- Mme Martine Schmit, Conseillère, Direction (adj.), Ministère de la Sécurité intérieure, Luxembourg;
- Mme Isabelle Schroeder, Juriste, Ministère de l'Egalité des chances, Luxembourg;
- M. Vincent Sybertz, Directeur, Centre de rétention, Luxembourg;
- Mme Sandy Zoller, Conseiller de direction, Division des personnes handicapées, Ministère de la Famille, de l'Intégration et de la Grande Région, Luxembourg.

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Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review*

Barbados

* The annex is being circulated without formal editing, in the language of submission only.

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Introduction

1. The Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, established in accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 5/1, held its twenty-ninth session from 15 to 26 January 2018. The review of Barbados was held at the 9th meeting, on 19 January 2018. The delegation of Barbados was headed by the Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, The Hon. Steven Blackett. At its 14th meeting, held on 23 January 2018, the Working Group adopted the report on Barbados.

2. On 10 January 2018, the Human Rights Council selected the following group of rapporteurs (troika) to facilitate the review of Barbados: Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Mexico.

3. In accordance with paragraph 15 of the annex to Human Rights Council resolution 5/1 and paragraph 5 of the annex to Council resolution 16/21, the following documents were issued for the review of Barbados:

(a) A national report submitted/written presentation made in accordance with paragraph 15 (a) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/BRB/1);

(b) A compilation prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in accordance with paragraph 15 (b) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/BRB/2);

(c) A summary prepared by OHCHR in accordance with paragraph 15 (c) (A/HRC/WG.6/29/BRB/3).

4. A list of questions prepared in advance by Belgium, Germany, Liechtenstein, Portugal, Slovenia, Spain and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland was transmitted to Barbados through the troika. These questions are available on the extranet of the universal periodic review.

I. Summary of the proceedings of the review process

A. Presentation by the State under review

5. The head of the delegation stated that, despite the many changes that had occurred locally and internationally, the people of Barbados continued to attach great importance to core values, like perseverance, pride and industry, which had made them strong throughout their history.

6. Barbados remained committed to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as respect for the dignity of all persons. Those priorities were reflected in the investment that the Government had made on education, social services and social security, which continued to consume approximately two thirds of the national budget. Such expenditure did not come easily, a fact that was better appreciated with reference to the current economic climate.

7. Successive administrations in Barbados had championed equality for women. In the workplace, all government employees had equality of pay and promotion was strictly on the basis of merit. Currently, the majority of the heads of ministries and departments in the civil service were women.

8. In Barbados, there were 107 publicly funded educational facilities, which ranged from the nursery level to the post-secondary and tertiary levels. Women were the heads of over 71 per cent of those institutions.

9. The delegation noted that achievements were not limited to the field of education, as women in Barbados were not restricted in the number or type of occupations and posts that they could occupy. They were also free to seek election to the House of Assembly and be elected by the people.

10. Primary care and environmental health services were offered to all Barbadians and permanent residents free at the point of delivery. All pregnant women living in Barbados

could access obstetric care within the network of polyclinics or at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. Consequently, Barbados did not have a high rate of maternal mortality.

11. The delegation noted that, on the matter of conferring citizenship to a spouse, the Constitution of Barbados was amended by the Constitution (Amendment) Act (2000-18) and provided, in section 3A (1) (b), for citizenship to be granted to the spouses of Barbadian-born men, as well as those of Barbadian-born women.

12. In addition, a person born outside Barbados after 29 November 1966 was entitled to Barbadian citizenship at birth if at least one parent was a Barbadian citizen by birth.

13. The Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act had been amended by the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act, 2016, which made provision for the definition of the term "domestic violence" and made greater provision for the safety of victims and children. The amendment enabled more persons to apply for orders, defined new types of abuse and gave the police additional powers. The amendment also included a mandatory reporting protocol and acknowledged that allowing a child to observe domestic violence was a form of abuse. Work continued on the Juvenile Justice Bill, in which the term "child" was defined as a person under the age of 18 years.

14. The Government of Barbados viewed all violence as a cause for concern. While Barbados had the appropriate legislative and administrative measures to combat domestic violence and the physical abuse of children, cooperation to strengthen current initiatives would be welcomed. To strengthen its ability to craft or modify policy, Barbados had requested access to programmes and training opportunities and assistance to develop and deploy appropriate statistical indicators in furthering the cause of human rights.

15. An interministerial committee had been created to oversee, among other things, the establishment of a national human rights institution. Such an institution would be broadly responsible for promoting and protecting human rights in the country.

16. Barbados had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on 27 February 2013 and the first draft of the Persons with Disabilities Bill was under review. The Bill sought to give the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities the force of law in Barbados.

17. The Employment (Prevention of Discrimination) Bill was also being developed to cover areas such as the prevention of discrimination in job creation, recruiting and prevention of discrimination in employment. The Bill imposed an obligation on employers to make reasonable adjustments for the accommodation of persons with disabilities. It also created a prohibition against testing for medical conditions.

18. Work was ongoing on the Building Standards Bill and Code. The Bill and Code sought to impose building standards to address the needs of persons with disabilities.

19. The Road Traffic (Amendment) Act, 2017, amended the Road Traffic Act to insert a new section to address parking for persons with disabilities.

20. The delegation announced that Barbados had well-established programmes for older persons, which were premised on the concepts of "active ageing" and "ageing in place". That was necessary as Barbadians continued to live longer and the country continued to record high numbers of centenarians. Statistics compiled as of May 2016 indicated that there were 114 centenarians alive on the island, of whom 103 were women and 11 men. Furthermore, that number contained 14 persons, 13 women and 1 man, considered to be semi-super centenarians, with ages ranging from 105 to 109.

21. While life expectancy was important, the quality of life was also essential. The Government had, therefore, produced initiatives to encourage enjoyment of life regardless of age. The Active Ageing programme, for example, sought to keep older persons active for as long as possible. Government-sponsored activities allowed older persons to engage in varying forms of exercise, drama, dance and craft, while in the National Senior Games, older persons competed against each other in track and field and fun events. Ageing in Place was an alternative programme to institutional care, in which older persons were afforded the opportunity to stay in their own homes. Under the Home Care programme, clients were given the required support by trained staff in order to maintain their independence.

22. The Ministry of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development had been collaborating with the Office of the Chief Parliamentary Counsel to provide legislation that addressed those issues relating to older persons that fell under the aegis of the National Assistance Board, which had primary responsibility for protecting and promoting the rights of older persons.

23. The Committee to Monitor the Implementation of the National Policy on Ageing had been established. The Committee was considering the issues of elder abuse and the introduction of an elder abuse protocol, as recommended in the Policy.

24. The Government, having received the comments and recommendations of the Committee, was committed to revamping the National Assistance Board to create a new institution that would become the focal point for the legislative affairs of older persons. It was also expected that, as a result of the National Policy on Ageing, there would be legislation dealing with elder abuse and support for caregivers as an incentive to keep their elderly relatives at home and within the community as long as possible.

25. The Government had continued its efforts to improve the professionalism of the Royal Barbados Police Force. In doing so, it had enhanced citizen security and broadened the focus of the Police Force from crime control to the pursuit of the goals identified through consultation with key stakeholders.

26. With regard to professionalization, polygraph testing had been introduced for all police officers at entry level and the Police Force had also started phasing in video recording of police interviews. The Evidence (Amendment) Act came into operation with effect from 15 December 2017 to make provision for sound recordings, video identification and other related matters.

27. Elements of accountability within the Police Force included the Police Disciplinary Code, as enshrined in the laws of Barbados, and the use of a disciplinary mechanism that included the Office of Professional Responsibility, the Police Complaints Authority and the Office of the Ombudsman. Members of the Police Force also continued to receive human rights training, which was routinely conducted by a range of qualified professionals.

28. The Government was in the process of furthering draft labour legislation. For example, the Employment (Prevention of Discrimination) Bill, which dealt specifically with the right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work. The Bill sought to protect persons from discrimination related to employment on the basis of race, origin, political opinion, colour, creed, sex, social status, marital or domestic partnership status, pregnancy, maternity, family responsibility, medical condition, disability and age.

29. The Government had enacted the Employment Sexual Harassment (Prevention) Act, 2017. The legislation provided for the protection of employees, in both the public and private sectors, from sexual harassment at their workplaces. It also provided a framework for the reporting of sexual harassment cases by employees and a method of resolving such cases, and established a procedure for the hearing and determination of matters related to sexual harassment.

30. There was no political mandate to legalize same-sex relationships. Similarly, there was no national consensus on the issue of repealing the country's laws on buggery.

31. Same-sex relations were not criminalized in legislation, what was criminalized was buggery, and there was no intervention by the law between consenting adults. However, in a case in which a minor was involved, or in the case of non-consenting adults, prosecution was possible against the offender.

32. Barbados stated that the Cabinet had given its approval to ratify the United Nations Convention against Corruption and to accede to the Inter-American Convention against Corruption.

33. Barbados had also ratified the Arms Trade Treaty and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols. In addition, it had replaced the Transnational Organized Crime (Prevention and Control) Act, 2013, with the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Act, 2016, in order to prevent and deter human trafficking in several areas.

34. The Government would continue to review treaties and give consideration to the signing of treaties and optional protocols within the limits of its capacities to live up to the reporting obligations.

35. There continued to be no national consensus or bipartisan support for the abolition of capital punishment at the time. Barbados highlighted that there remained a de facto moratorium on the application of the death penalty since there had been no executions in Barbados since 1984.

36. On the issue of the mandatory death penalty, legislation was being reviewed to provide for the abolition of the mandatory imposition of the death penalty and preparations were being finalized for its submission to Cabinet prior to its introduction to Parliament. The Offences Against the Person (Amendment) Bill, 2014, was the focal point of efforts to address the removal of the mandatory imposition of the death penalty. The object of the Bill was to amend section 2 of the Offences Against the Person Act so as to abolish the mandatory imposition of the death penalty for murder.

37. Barbados intended to improve on its human rights reporting record and had already started doing so. The National Human Rights Coordinating Committee was the Barbadian form of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up. Even with the creation of the Committee, certain constraints regarding human resources and finances remained as significant hurdles to timely implementation, reporting and follow-up.

38. The establishment of a national human rights institution was being considered by the interministerial National Human Rights Coordinating Committee. It was expected that recommendations would be made by that body on the form and steps to be taken that would result in the establishment of a national human rights institution.

39. The Government reiterated its commitment to pursuing the promotion of human rights at home and abroad and working with States and all other stakeholders in that most important exercise.

B. Interactive dialogue and responses by the State under review

40. During the interactive dialogue, 52 delegations made statements. Recommendations made during the dialogue are to be found in section II of the present report.

41. Indonesia welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the adoption of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act, 2016, the creation of the Partnership for Peace programme and measures to combat domestic violence in Barbados.

42. Ireland commended Barbados on the adoption of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act and the establishment of the Family Conflict Intervention Unit, noting with concern the high prevalence of gender-based violence. It encouraged Barbados to decriminalize consensual homosexual relations, to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons from discrimination and provide the special procedure mandate holders with a standing invitation. It noted with regret that the legislation to abolish the death penalty remained pending.

43. Italy praised Barbados for its efforts to fight domestic violence and sexual harassment by adopting new legislation and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in particular its Protocols.

44. Jamaica commended Barbados for its progress in education and housing as well as police training. It noted with appreciation the work of the Bureau of Gender Affairs to eliminate gender discrimination and domestic violence, the launch of the National Youth Parliament and the proclamation of the Safety and Health at Work Act.

45. Libya applauded the establishment of the National Human Rights Coordinating Committee and measures taken in the area of human rights outlined in the national report. It welcomed the plans to set up family courts in Barbados.

46. Maldives commended Barbados for the establishment of the National Human Rights Coordinating Committee and noted with appreciation the efforts made in adopting the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act and the Employment Sexual Harassment (Prevention) Act, 2017.

47. Mexico welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2013, which would extend the legal framework for the protection of that group of persons. Mexico recognized the work that had been done to realize the Sustainable Development Goals through a follow-up mechanism to measure the progress in their implementation. Mexico highlighted the efforts of Barbados to foster the capacity and technical assistance in the presentation of the reports of the national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up to the major international human rights instruments.

48. Montenegro welcomed the efforts to achieve high literacy rates among women and girls and gender parity in education, calling on Barbados to adopt legislation against discrimination on the basis of gender. It encouraged Barbados to intensify its cooperation with OHCHR and, if necessary, to seek technical assistance to fulfil its reporting obligations and harmonize its legislation with international human rights standards, particularly with the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

49. Morocco noted with satisfaction the efforts to ensure gender equality in education and to implement a plan to promote sustainable social and economic development and a regional project to improve access to justice. It also praised the measures taken by Barbados in order to ensure integration and protection of persons with disabilities by ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

50. Mozambique welcomed the adoption of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act, programmes to combat intergenerational poverty focused on women and legislative instruments to align national laws with international human rights instruments. It also praised Barbados for the establishment of a family conflict prevention unit.

51. Namibia noted that Barbados remained committed to the promotion and protection of human rights regardless of the many challenges, such as the effects of climate change or lack of resources and capacity to implement policies and programmes. It welcomed efforts to establish the National Human Rights Coordinating Committee and to adopt the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act and the Employment Sexual Harassment (Prevention) Act.

52. The Netherlands commended Barbados for the adoption of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act, expressing concern about the prevalence of gender-based violence, particularly domestic violence and sexual abuse. It noted that there seemed to be underreporting of gender-based violence cases and a lack of shelters for victims of that crime.

53. New Zealand praised Barbados for its commitment to abolishing the death penalty for murder, as well as the steps it had taken to establish a national committee for monitoring the rights of the child, and to ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It also welcomed the commitment by Barbados to reduce social inequalities through the Persons with Disabilities Bill.

54. Peru recognized the progress that had been made in the human rights situation. It praised Barbados for its efforts to implement the school programme on positive behaviour management and the campaign "Break the Silence". It hoped that the current cycle would contribute to the improvement of human rights in the country.

55. The Philippines noted achievements in promoting an effective judiciary and freedom of speech and of the press, acknowledging the efforts to maintain an enabling environment for national and international human rights groups. It commended Barbados for its appropriate legislation on employment rights.

56. Portugal applauded the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and adoption of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) Act.

57. The Republic of Korea welcomed the expanded role of the National Human Rights Coordinating Committee in conducting research and working to establish a national human

rights institution. It also noted with appreciation the work on a framework policy to combat gender discrimination in Barbados.

58. Senegal commended Barbados for the ratification, in 2013, of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and for its cooperation with the special procedure mandate holders. It also commended Barbados for the creation of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, participation in the initiatives of the Human Rights Council and activities related to the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

59. Sierra Leone applauded the commitment of Barbados to human rights in spite of various financial challenges. It welcomed the creation of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up and encouraged Barbados to accede to the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and its 1967 Protocol; withdraw its reservation to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons; and ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

60. Singapore welcomed the ratification by Barbados of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It commended initiatives such as the technology programme to improve educational outcomes for blind and visually impaired children and welcomed efforts by Barbados to enhance women's rights, particularly through its draft national policy on gender. It also commended Barbados for its efforts to promote the human rights of its people and safeguard their economic and social rights, while confronting its economic challenges.

61. Slovenia commended Barbados for the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and encouraged the country to extend a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders and respond positively to their requests for official visits.

62. The State of Palestine encouraged Barbados to extend a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders. It also welcomed the efforts by Barbados to empower women and realize gender equality, including through the drafting of a national policy on gender, and commended the country for the steps it had taken in the area of education, in particular for children with disabilities.

63. Timor-Leste noted with appreciation that Barbados had drafted a national policy on gender. It welcomed the adoption of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act, 2016, and the establishment, in 2013, of the Family Conflict Intervention Unit. It also commended Barbados for promoting human rights training among members of the Police Force.

64. Trinidad and Tobago acknowledged the progress of Barbados in improving its human rights framework. It also appreciated the steps taken to address domestic violence, including by establishing the Family Conflict Intervention Unit and updating relevant legislation, and acknowledged the efforts made to improve the Police Force. It was pleased by the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and welcomed the efforts of Barbados to improve the lives of such persons.

65. Ukraine acknowledged the positive steps taken by Barbados with respect to the implementation of the recommendations accepted during previous cycles, in particular the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and improvements in the professionalism of the Police Force. It encouraged Barbados to take further measures to advance human rights.

66. The United Kingdom welcomed the commitment by Barbados to protect and promote human rights, especially the rights of children, but noted the need for further progress in the area of violence against women and the protection of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons against discrimination. It urged Barbados to amend the legislation so as to abolish the mandatory death penalty and noted that the country did not have a national human rights institution.

67. The United States of America was pleased to note the strong respect of Barbados for human rights. Nevertheless, it was concerned about lengthy pretrial detention, insufficient action on corruption and reports of sex trafficking of children.

68. Uruguay welcomed the progress and legislative reforms of Barbados in combating discrimination against women. It also welcomed the new legislation that was being

elaborated by the Government aimed at reducing discrimination against various vulnerable groups.

69. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela welcomed the progress made by Barbados in implementing the recommendations it had accepted during the previous cycles of the universal periodic review. It noted numerous positive developments, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the country's high level of human development and the implementation of programmes to fight extreme poverty. It also noted progress in the field of adequate housing and the empowerment of women.

70. Algeria welcomed the progress made by Barbados since its second universal periodic review and commended it for the implementation of a development plan aimed at promoting lasting social development. It also welcomed the efforts of Barbados in the field of education, health and poverty reduction.

71. Angola commended Barbados for the implementation of the recommendations from the last universal periodic review and the adoption, in 2016, of legislation ensuring better protection for women. It appealed to OHCHR and other United Nations agencies to continue engaging with Barbados on capacity-building and technical assistance.

72. Argentina welcomed the delegation of Barbados and thanked it for the presentation of its national report.

73. Australia commended the progress in promoting and protecting human rights, including ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. It was concerned that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons continued to be subject to discrimination. It was seriously concerned with the perpetration of violence and abuse against women and children. Australia acknowledged the commitment of Barbados to end the courts' use of the death penalty as a sentence, while it was concerned at the delay in its implementation.

74. Azerbaijan commended Barbados for the progress it had achieved in addressing the recommendations it had received during the last cycle. It appreciated the wide range of legislative and institutional measures undertaken by Barbados to further improve the protection and promotion of human rights, including throughout the policies pursued with regard to the right to education, the right to health, gender equality, domestic violence and the rights of persons with disabilities. It congratulated Barbados for ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

75. The Bahamas congratulated Barbados on its commitment to the protection and promotion of human rights, while noting that Barbados faced challenges due to its vulnerability to external shocks. Despite that, Barbados had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and made legislative reforms through the promulgation of the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act, 2016, and the Employment Sexual Harassment (Prevention) Act, 2017.

76. Belgium acknowledged the positive steps taken by Barbados with respect to the implementation of recommendations accepted during the second cycle. However, it was convinced that further progress could still be achieved to increase the protection of human rights in line with the core international human rights treaties. Belgium attached a lot of importance to the rights of the child in Barbados.

77. Brazil appreciated the efforts made by Barbados to abolish the mandatory death penalty in cases of murder. It praised the de facto moratorium on this kind of punishment, as no execution had been applied since 1984. It commended the initiatives of the high-level authorities in support of tolerance and respect for the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. It praised the high literacy rates among women and the gender parity at the primary and secondary school levels. However, it expressed its concern about the situation of victims of domestic violence.

78. Canada commended the Government's adoption of the Employment Sexual *Harassment (Prevention) Act, 2017. It welcomed the launch in Barbados of the Model* Guidelines for Sexual Offence Cases in the Caribbean Region in 2017 — the first country in the region to do so. The Model Guidelines provided internationally accepted best practices

for the management of sexual offence cases, and offered a rights-based approach to the treatment of complaints and vulnerable witnesses, including children, involved in sexual assault cases.

79. Chile was pleased that Barbados had ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, a recommendation that it had accepted in the second cycle, and encouraged the country to continue working for its effective implementation. The adoption of the Trafficking in Persons Prevention Act, which criminalized various forms of trafficking in human beings, was a substantial step forward in the fight against trafficking and modern forms of slavery. It commended Barbados for applying this Act, while taking into special consideration the situation of women and children.

80. China noted the Growth and Development Strategy 2013–2020 of Barbados in promoting economic and social development, and the protection of the rights to education and health by providing free education and health services. It also noted that Barbados had made positive progress in promoting gender equality, protecting the rights of women, children, the disabled and other vulnerable groups, and combating domestic violence.

81. Côte d'Ivoire commended the efforts of Barbados to promote and protect human rights. It welcomed the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and encouraged taking the necessary measures for its effective implementation. It appreciated the cooperation of Barbados with OHCHR and other United Nations mechanisms, particularly with regard to capacity-building and technical assistance in the field of human rights.

82. Cuba commended Barbados for maintaining a constant commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights. It emphasized that free education and health systems had been maintained, and a social welfare system reached the most needy. It also noted the actions to promote the participation of young people in political processes, such as the creation of the National Youth Parliament. It highlighted the actions that had been carried out to combat domestic violence and those that were being applied to gender issues.

83. Denmark stated that ensuring full and effective gender equality and the protection of women and girls against all forms of discrimination were crucial when seeking to advance the respect for and protection of human rights and should be a key objective also in relation to ensuring socially and economically sustainable societies. It noted that during the second cycle, it was recommended that Barbados ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. By ratifying the Convention, Barbados would join more than 160 States parties in the unequivocal message that torture could never be tolerated. Denmark urged Barbados to explore assistance through the Convention against Torture Initiative.

84. Ecuador expressed its appreciation for the efforts of Barbados to comply with the recommendations received in its second cycle, especially for its legislation against different types of discrimination, which sought to guarantee the rights of historically marginalized groups. Ecuador also highlighted the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities as a significant step forward in the protection and promotion of the rights of that group, and it wished Barbados every success in their proper implementation.

85. France welcomed the progress made in Barbados since 2013 in combating domestic violence against women, the creation of the Bureau of Gender Affairs and the launch of programmes that had led to a reduction in the number of recorded incidents of violence. It also welcomed the fact that Barbados had strengthened equality between men and women and made progress in combating violence against children.

86. Georgia noted with appreciation the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities by Barbados and encouraged the country to accelerate its efforts towards elaboration of a national policy on disability. It welcomed the steps aimed at tackling domestic violence through passing the Domestic Violence (Protection Orders) (Amendment) Act, as well as establishment of the Family Conflict Intervention Unit. It underlined the importance of further strengthening policies in that regard.

87. Germany commended Barbados for its ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its efforts to draft anti-discrimination law. However, it remained concerned about the death penalty and corporal punishment of children.

88. Guyana congratulated Barbados on the establishment of the National Human Rights Coordinating Committee and looked forward to learning about the experience of establishing a national human rights institution. The draft gender policy currently under review and the creation of the Family Conflict Intervention Unit should be lauded as concrete initiatives in further addressing gender equality and especially the challenge of domestic violence and violence against women and children.

89. Haiti noted the progress and participation of Barbados in a regional project to improve access to justice, especially for women, and its efforts to adopt a draft law on juvenile justice and create a family court.

90. Honduras recognized and congratulated Barbados for the actions and measures taken to implement the recommendations received in the previous cycle. Honduras commended the commitment of Barbados to the realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Honduras was convinced of the opportunity offered by this new framework for the realization of all human rights and welcomed the establishment of a new mechanism for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

91. Iceland welcomed the progress Barbados had made in the promotion of human rights, including the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

92. India commended the improving social welfare system of Barbados, particularly for older persons, children and the unemployed, the facilitation measures taken by the National Disabilities Unit for the disabled to access education and transportation, and the provision of decent, safe and affordable housing to all. It appreciated the implementation of the Employment Rights Act, 2012, the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the launching of the National Youth Parliament and the establishment of a national human rights institution.

93. The head of the delegation of Barbados thanked those who had shown appreciation of the country's efforts, those who were able to identify with the resource challenges that the country faced, and those members who contributed to the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council.

94. The process of concluding the universal periodic review involved interaction with various organizations, stakeholders and NGOs. It forced Barbados to look at how the country was progressing in several areas and served to highlight those in which assistance was needed. It was a very useful exercise in that regard.

95. The head of the delegation concluded by restating the country's firm commitment to the observance and furtherance of human rights. Barbados would continue to implement its human rights obligations and, therefore, anticipated ongoing dialogue and, where appropriate, technical and other cooperation, to further that work.

II. Conclusions and/or recommendations

96. **The following recommendations will be examined by Barbados, which will provide responses in due time, but no later than the thirty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council:**

96.1 **Take steps towards the full abolition of the death penalty, including ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (New Zealand);**

96.2 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Ukraine);**

96.3 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and take the necessary measures to repeal the death penalty in its legislation (Argentina);**

96.4 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Belgium);**

96.5 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Côte d'Ivoire);**

96.6 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Georgia);**

96.7 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Iceland);**

96.8 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Montenegro);**

96.9 **Consider ratifying the International Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Brazil);**

96.10 **Advance towards the ratification of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Chile);**

96.11 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Côte d'Ivoire);**

96.12 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Denmark);**

96.13 **Ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Senegal);**

96.14 **Consider adhering to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Ecuador);**

96.15 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (Indonesia);**

96.16 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol, and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Portugal);**

96.17 **Ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Senegal);**

96.18 **Accede to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Sierra Leone);**

96.19 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Slovenia);**

96.20 **Ratify other key international treaties, including the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol, and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ukraine);**

96.21 **Ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty, and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Uruguay);**

96.22 **Direct adequate resources to support agencies responsible for the prevention of and response to violence against women and children, and accede**

to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Australia);

96.23 **Consider ratifying the Convention against Torture and the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Azerbaijan);**

96.24 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, as well as the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Belgium);**

96.25 **Ratify the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Denmark);**

96.26 **Ratify the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol (Germany);**

96.27 **Consider ratifying the main international instruments on human rights, particularly those on children, migrants, torture and the death penalty (Haiti);**

96.28 **Ratify the Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and on the involvement of children in armed conflict; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance; the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and its Optional Protocol; and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty (Honduras);**

96.29 **Ratify the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees of 1951 and its Protocol and also consider the possibility of withdrawing its reservation to the Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons of 1954 and ratify the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness of 1961 (Honduras);**

96.30 **Continue efforts to ratify international instruments, such as the Convention against Torture and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (Morocco);**

96.31 **Present overdue reports to the human rights treaty bodies (Ukraine);**

96.32 **Adopt an open, merit-based selection process when selecting national candidates for United Nations treaty body elections (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

96.33 **Consider issuing a standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders (Georgia);**

96.34 **Continue efforts in establishing an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Indonesia);**

96.35 **Finalize the process of establishing a national human rights institution in line with the Paris Principles (Ukraine);**

96.36 **Establish an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Germany);**

96.37 **Consider creating an independent national human rights institution in accordance with the Paris Principles (Haiti);**

96.38 **Establish a national human rights authority in accordance with the Paris Principles (Honduras);**

96.39 **Continue its efforts to establish a national human rights institution (India);**

96.40 **Maintain its commitment to respect human rights, particularly through legislative measures (Cuba);**

96.41 **Intensify efforts aimed at finalizing the various pending human rights-related legislation, including the draft national gender policy, the Offences Against the Person (Amendment) Bill and the draft Juvenile Justice Bill (Namibia);**

96.42 **Enact legislation that ensures protection from discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation or gender identity in the areas of employment, health care and education (Netherlands);**

96.43 **Repeal all legal provisions that discriminate against persons on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity, including the relevant language in the Sexual Offences Act (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

96.44 **Repeal the provisions that criminalize consensual homosexual relations, notably those contained in the Sexual Offences Act, and establish policies to combat discrimination, prejudice and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity (Iceland);**

96.45 **Immediately repeal laws that criminalize consensual same-sex adult sexual relations (Canada);**

96.46 **Include lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons in new legislation to prohibit any type of discrimination or violence based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Uruguay);**

96.47 **Consider repealing provisions that criminalize homosexuality (Italy);**

96.48 **Amend its criminal code to decriminalize consensual same-sex acts, and to take steps to implement legislative and public policy measures to protect the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (Australia);**

96.49 **Combat discrimination, prejudice and violence based on sexual orientation and gender identity through legislative reform and the adoption of awareness-raising measures (Canada);**

96.50 **Adopt legal measures to protect lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity (Chile);**

96.51 **Decriminalize same-sex relationships and combat discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons (France);**

96.52 **Establish the necessary normative framework to combat discrimination on the grounds of sex, sexual orientation or gender identity in order to promote sexual inclusion and gender equality (Mexico);**

96.53 **Engage in public education and sensitization campaigns about the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (Timor-Leste);**

96.54 **Take measures to decriminalize consensual sexual relations between adults of the same sex (Uruguay);**

96.55 **Consider abolishing the death penalty (Mozambique);**

96.56 **Enact legislation to abolish the mandatory death penalty, in line with previously accepted recommendations, and commute the sentences of all persons currently on death row to life imprisonment (Ireland);**

96.57 **Speed-up the process to remove provisions in national law that provide for the mandatory imposition of the death penalty (Italy);**

96.58 **Permanently abolish the death penalty in continuation of Barbados de facto moratorium (France);**

96.59 **Abolish the death penalty for all crimes and ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (Germany);**

96.60 **Consider establishing an official moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to totally abolishing it, while noting that the country has maintained a de facto moratorium for more than 30 years (Namibia);**

96.61 **Impose a moratorium on the mandatory death penalty (Timor-Leste);**

96.62 **Promote a national debate on capital punishment and consider the adoption of a de jure moratorium on executions with a view to abolishing the death penalty (Italy);**

96.63 **Consider applying a moratorium on the death penalty (Angola);**

96.64 **Establish a formal moratorium on the death penalty, as a step towards the complete abolition of this practice (Australia);**

96.65 **Consider the abolition of the death penalty, while adopting a de facto moratorium on the death penalty (Chile);**

96.66 **Establish a mandatory moratorium on the use of the death penalty in conformity with the international standards on the matter (Mexico);**

96.67 **Continue to work towards reducing the reported incidences of abuse of force by the Police Force, through ongoing training and improved internal investigation techniques (Jamaica);**

96.68 **Address the backlog and undue delays in scheduling of court dates and appearances of juries and defendants, including by creating an accurate and transparent online case-tracking system, in order to ensure that all criminal defendants are afforded fair trial guarantees and equality before the courts consistent with the country's international obligations (United States of America);**

96.69 **Consider raising the age of criminal responsibility for children and to reverse the practice of trying persons aged 16 as adults (Namibia);**

96.70 **Increase the age of criminal responsibility, in line with the recommendations made by the United Nations human rights mechanisms (Republic of Korea);**

96.71 **Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to more than 11 years (Sierra Leone);**

96.72 **Raise the age of criminal responsibility for all types of offences (Haiti);**

96.73 **Move forward with the enactment and implementation of the Juvenile Justice Bill (Bahamas);**

96.74 **Expedite the adoption of the Juvenile Justice Bill in order to, inter alia, outlaw the use of corporal punishment as a criminal sanction (Belgium);**

96.75 **Promulgate the Prevention of Corruption Act of 2012 (United States of America);**

96.76 **Adopt a national policy on trafficking in persons (Trinidad and Tobago);**

96.77 **Address trafficking in persons, particularly by providing adequate resources to government agencies for training and furthering anti-trafficking efforts, as well as providing sufficient resources for victim care (Philippines);**

96.78 **Continue to fight against human trafficking and to protect its victims, in particular by providing support and assistance to women and girls trafficked for the purposes of prostitution and forced labour (Portugal);**

96.79 **Increase efforts to stop and prevent human trafficking, initially by fully enforcing existing laws and increasing funds to do so (Republic of Korea);**

96.80 **Develop a national action plan to combat human trafficking, ensuring that it is allocated sufficient human and financial resources (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland);**

96.81 **Step up efforts to prosecute human traffickers, including child sex traffickers, and identify and assist victims of this crime (United States of America);**

96.82 **Continue efforts to combat trafficking in human beings, in particular through appropriate care and programmes to assist victims and facilitate their reinsertion into society (Morocco);**

96.83 **Amend national legislation to ensure equality in nationality law, facilitating the acquisition, changing and retention of nationality and allowing mothers to transfer their nationality to their offspring regardless of whether or not they are adopted (Sierra Leone);**

96.84 **Amend its laws to ensure gender equality between Barbadian mothers and fathers with respect to their ability to transfer their nationality to their children in all circumstances (Germany);**

96.85 **Amend national legislation to reflect the fact that any child born outside of Barbados to a Barbadian citizen is entitled to citizenship by descent (Iceland);**

96.86 **Continue and, if possible, intensify programmes aimed at expanding the participation of women in more varied fields of employment (Jamaica);**

96.87 **Continue to advance in its successful social policies, especially in the areas of economic, social and cultural rights, in order to provide the greatest possible welfare to its population (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela);**

96.88 **Reinforce the programmes against the feminization of poverty (Peru);**

96.89 **Continue to promote economic and social sustainable development to lay a solid foundation for people's enjoyment of all human rights (China);**

96.90 **Include measures aimed at ensuring the transparent, efficient and accountable delivery of public services in its national development strategy (Azerbaijan);**

96.91 **Improve access to quality health-care services for all, including in remote areas, and address the challenges of maternal mortality (Indonesia);**

96.92 **Continue to strengthen efforts to consolidate the national legal framework by including provisions and laws on the right to education, to improve access to quality education (Libya);**

96.93 **Include explicitly the right to education for all without discrimination in its normative framework (Mexico);**

96.94 **Consider an explicit incorporation of the right to education in its national legislation (Peru);**

96.95 **Continue to strengthen the institutions that promote local culture, incorporating human rights training and awareness based on an approach that sees human rights as complementary to Barbadian culture and nationalism (Jamaica);**

96.96 **Elaborate a clear, appropriate policy and/or measures for pregnant schoolgirls that allows them to remain in formal education, sit exams and then return to school after giving birth, including through the use of approaches, such as separate classes, that are aimed at breaking the cycles of poverty, teenage pregnancy and domestic violence (Jamaica);**

96.97 **Approve and implement the national policy on gender (Philippines);**

96.98 **Advance the finalization of the national policy on gender (Bahamas);**

96.99 **Adopt legislation to outlaw discrimination based on gender, including in employment (Republic of Korea);**

96.100 **Enhance efforts to combat gender stereotyping and gender inequality (Portugal);**

96.101 **Expand its programmes aimed at eliminating the stereotypical portrayal of gender in society and the workplace in order to reduce gender inequalities (Singapore);**

96.102 **Continue its efforts to strengthen the understanding of equality of women and men and ensure equal rights and opportunities for women (State of Palestine);**

96.103 **Continue its efforts to promote gender equality and poverty reduction (Timor-Leste);**

96.104 **Continue its efforts to address gender inequality as it relates to the conference on nationality (Trinidad and Tobago);**

96.105 **Strengthen gender equality and ensure equal rights and opportunities for women victims of converging forms of discrimination, particularly migrant women and women belonging to religious minorities (Algeria);**

96.106 **Take effective measures to ensure gender equality (Angola);**

96.107 **Further promote gender equality and better protect the rights of women and children (China);**

96.108 **Step up efforts to combat gender-based violence and provide adequate redress and protection to women who are victim of such violence, for example by establishing shelters, issuing and enforcing protection orders and enhancing cooperation with NGOs that provide assistance and rehabilitation to victims (Netherlands);**

96.109 **Take further steps to strengthen the implementation of legislation that prohibits and penalizes abuse against women and children, as well as domestic violence (Philippines);**

96.110 **Strengthen efforts in the fight against all forms of violence against women and ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (Portugal);**

96.111 **Accord high priority to the full implementation of legislation on gender-based violence and ensure that perpetrators are prosecuted and adequately punished (Ireland);**

96.112 **Enhance efforts to combat all forms of violence against women and children (Italy);**

96.113 **Adopt specific legislation to prevent and combat sexual harassment in all areas (Honduras);**

96.114 **Intensify efforts to bring national legislation on combating all forms of discrimination into line with international standards (Georgia);**

96.115 **Continue efforts to combat violence and discrimination against women and promote their inclusion in decision-making bodies (Morocco);**

96.116 **Improve the representation of women in decision-making positions in the Parliament, Government and diplomatic service (Trinidad and Tobago);**

96.117 **Strengthen the Family Conflict Intervention Unit of the Royal Barbados Police Force (Peru);**

96.118 **Harmonize legislation regarding the definition of a child, the administration of juvenile justice, violence against children and custody with the Convention on the Rights of the Child (Ecuador);**

96.119 **Make statutory provision for the draft mandatory reporting protocol on child abuse (Bahamas);**

96.120 **Take steps to address issues raised by the Committee on the Rights of the Child in 2017 with regard to the corporal punishment of children and continue**

its efforts to educate the population on the negative impact of such punishment (New Zealand);

96.121 **Adopt measures with a view to eliminate corporal punishment in all settings, in particular in schools (Slovenia);**

96.122 **Implement measures to prohibit corporal punishment as a disciplinary sanction in schools and at home (Uruguay);**

96.123 **Take steps to prohibit corporal punishment, especially at school (Italy);**

96.124 **Take the necessary measures to repeal all legislation allowing corporal punishment (Argentina);**

96.125 **Outlaw the use of corporal punishment, especially in criminal and educational settings, in accordance with international human rights standards (Brazil);**

96.126 **Continue to combat violence against children, which is a worrying phenomenon in Barbados, in particular by providing the Child Care Board with additional financial and human resources (France);**

96.127 **Abolish corporal punishment (Germany);**

96.128 **Call on international technical assistance to review the legal framework in respect of certain traditional social attitudes and, in particular, corporal punishment, with a view to follow up on paragraph 14 of the recommendations from the first cycle and paragraphs 102.80, 102.81, 102.82, 102.83, 102.84, 102.85 and 102.86 of those from the second cycle (Haiti);**

96.129 **Prohibit corporal punishment of children in all settings (Montenegro);**

96.130 **Take the necessary measures to combat discrimination against migrant children and children with disabilities. Existing laws prohibiting discrimination should be fully implemented, including by intensifying awareness campaigns aimed at combating negative social attitudes towards these children (Algeria);**

96.131 **Continue to seek parliamentary approval for the Persons with Disabilities Bill and take concrete steps towards its implementation (New Zealand);**

96.132 **Continue to explore creative and practical applications of technology to support persons with disabilities and to better integrate them into society (Singapore);**

96.133 **Continue its efforts to ensure that persons with disabilities have equal access to education and health services (State of Palestine);**

96.134 **Pursue legislative action to implement its obligations under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (Australia);**

96.135 **Continue effective measures to ensure that children with disabilities have access to special health care, including early detection and intervention programmes (Maldives);**

96.136 **Establish national legislation on refugees that promotes and protects their rights in compliance with international standards (Sierra Leone);**

96.137 **Fully implement existing laws protecting the rights of migrant workers, especially any discrimination against migrant women and children, particularly in the areas of education, housing and access to health care (Guyana).**

97. **All conclusions and/or recommendations contained in the present report reflect the position of the submitting State(s) and/or the State under review. They should not be construed as endorsed by the Working Group as a whole.**

Annex

Composition of the delegation

The delegation of Barbados was headed by Hon. Steven Blackett, M.P. Minister of Social Care, Constituency Empowerment and Community Development, and composed of the following members:

- H.E. Mr. Bentley Gibbs, Ambassador/Permanent Representative Permanent Mission of Barbados;
- Mr. Valton Bend, Ombudsman;
- Mr. Hughland Allman, Deputy Permanent Representative;
- Mr. Jeffrey Kellman, Deputy Permanent Secretary;
- Ms. Shawn Belle, Senior Parliamentary Counsel;
- Dr. Ricardo Kellman, Foreign Service Officer.